

G2 with European weather

G2 pages 8-9

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Eyre report will damn Royal Opera House board

Dolly Dharma, page 8

Jamie Acourt, one of the five suspected of killing Stephen Lawrence, arrives to give evidence at the inquiry yesterday

political, community and religious leaders to demonstrate greater responsibility, and to make stringent efforts to end the bitter rivalry between both sides of the community, so laying the foundations for a more tolerant atmosphere in the future."

Breandan MacCionnatha, a representative of the Garvaghy Road residents, said: "We are not gloating in any way. But this is the acid test of Tony Blair and the Good Friday Agreement. He must use all resources to make sure that this ban is observed. We will continue with our protest on Saturday because we do not trust Ronnie Finnan nor to push the march through on the day."

Meanwhile, Lord Alderdice surprised colleagues in the centrist Alliance Party by stepping down as leader ahead of tomorrow's inaugural meeting of the assembly.

The Alliance now only six seats in the 108-member parliament.

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In the G2 find: Francis Wheen, Britain's most irreverent columnist and our Society page

Pray, where's the spiritual touch?



Mr Alsworth has an incredible hair-do, a massive curly confection, like cream squeezed on to a rum baba by some gigantic baker. If you dyed it red, he could captain the Colombian football team. He is also that uniquely annoying combination, an investment banker who thinks

Normally ministers would answer with a parade of misleading statistics, plus some oratorical sleight-of-hand about regional variations, and hope to shut the MP up that way.

Not Tony Banks. "That is a bit of a bummer," he mused, to the delighted astonishment of all sides.

Pakistani nuclear attack on India? "Bummer." Interest rates up? "Bummer." Prayer modules in the Dome? "Way cool." The Banks approach to political rhetoric is certainly up-to-date. May it catch on.

Perishing in an updated torment

There are many contradictions in the character, and this production is just as schizophrenic, ramping up the heroic sanctity, while just as quickly descending into flippancy and bathos.

Mason employs some fairly overly comic strokes to enliven Shaw's yawning debates, but the casting of Mark O'Regan as the Dauphin is hilariously ineffective; a crumpled, infantile creature, nootering nervously

around the court, sucking his sugar stick.

More imposing is Ian Price, the fully potted, terribly English Earl of Warwick. In fact, Warwick's murderous pursuit of "political expediency" provides the one point at which the costume leaps into the modern.

Despite Shaw's modernity and proto-feminism (mind you, apart from Joan, all significant speaking parts are male), his political analysis is dated, and he is as both dated and doting.

If Shaw is didactic, Mason can be even more so. In the programme, he makes a contrast between Shaw's involvement in facilitating the Irish delegation which negotiated the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, not long before he wrote

And in the big discursive scene, in which Bishop Cauthon betrays Joan into Warwick's hands, the pointed pronouncements of "Protestantism," "Anglicanism," "Romanism" have all the subtlety of a wooden spoon gently rapping out the message along your knuckles.

To be frank, this is difficult material to bring alive, unless you are a socialist, a pacifist, or a conviction, and apart from the odd spark, it is largely missing here.

Interestingly, the last time the Abbey exhumed the play in 1972, with a legendary drop-outed Siobhan McKenna in the title, "Anglicanism" and "romantic nationalism" (McKenna had translated the play into Irish in 1962). However, there are more doubts in Mason's revival than certainties.

And, framed in a fairly typical Joe Vaneck set, between two large windows and plaster monoliths, the entertainment values are frequently sad.



Fox Group sell-off likely to raise £2.4bn to reduce debt burden

REPORT Murdoch's News Corporation last night announced plans to sell to the public as much as 20 percent of its US media assets. The move, in conjunction, the 20th Century Fox film studio and more than 20 television stations.

The flotation of the newly formed News Group, which will own the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team and the New York Knicks baseball team, is expected to raise at least \$4 billion (\$2.4 billion).

News Corp. is expected to use the cash to pay off its debt, and the Sun newspapers, it said it would use the cash to reduce its debt burden as well as buy back shares.

News Corp said the public offering would be the first of a series of offerings that would enable the investment bank of the Murdoch empire to enable the investment community to better value the various entertainment assets of the company, which News Corporation owns.

Earlier this month Mr. Murdoch sold TV Guide for \$2 billion (\$1.2 billion). The original purchase of the American listings company almost brought News Corporation to its knees, before a bank consortium stepped in to rescue it.

The flotation of Fox comes amid investor pressure to boost the share price of Mr. Murdoch's media assets, which has been trading below rival groups. Analysts have long complained about the low valuation of the media group, which includes its struggling publishing house HarperCollins.

"This puts the value on the US assets," Barry Hyman, an analyst at Ehrenkrantz Klingenstein & Woodberg, says. "Once people can see they're likely to give the stock a higher valuation. The one knock on the company was that you couldn't tell what was what. You are now going to be able to tell what it's worth."

Mr. Murdoch's non-publish-

fast assets have been growing faster than his print business and now account for more than half News Corp.'s \$13 billion (\$7.8 billion) in annual turnover.

The Fox Group will have the same four business divisions: Fox Filmed Entertainment, which includes the 20th Century Fox movie studio and TV programming businesses; the Fox Television Group, which includes the Fox Broadcasting Co. and Fox stations and cable networks, which includes News Corporation's 50 percent stake in the Fox/Liberty Networks regional sports network, FX, the Fox Family and the Fox Kids Channel; Fox television broadcasts such as hit shows as *The X-Files* and *Ally McBeal*.

News Corporation said it expected to file a registration statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission within the next three months and to complete the offering by the end of the year.

While Mr. Murdoch was recently blocked by the American government from breaking into the European television market, his other U.S.

The 14-point rundown of campaigning ideas designed to attract local media coverage will prove handy for some MPs, but has infuriated others, already irritated at previous advice on spinning the party message.

In April, a similar briefing aimed at publicity-hungry but imagination-starved MPs

The prompted claims that the party was using a Blue Peter-style approach to serve up a concoction of facts to the communities. MPs were invited to make cardboard props and recruit small children to help promote the party's local election campaign.

In the new suggestions, the party urged to organise a "photo opportunity" with a "large syringe with the words 'Labour's £2 billion cash injection for the NHS' written on it". Those not in possession of a large syringe need not fear: a four-foot model is available from the party's regional press officers.

Alternatively, MPs are invited to incorporate a large version of the 50p coin commemorating the NHS anniversary — available from the Parliamentary Labour Party Resource Centre.

If a syringe or coin do not meet more fervent suggestions, the invitation to "ask the Mayor of London addressing Mazon as Dr Brod in Carry On Doctor is

followed by the note: "If it came to us laugh even if it comes, please use your discretion." The letter also says that if they choose, MPs are encouraged to be seen and heard in the vicinity of a local hospital due to receive some of £500 million extra allocated in last March's budget to back rising waiting lists.

The letters also include funding an NHS worker who is celebrating their 50th birthday this year, and the original media copies of the original 1994 NHS launch document "more quirky nostalgia to help them do their jobs", (briefing advises).

On 15 October, the members were yesterday mocking the document. One said: "Perhaps we should all donate a kidney to show we really value the NHS".

Some Labour MPs are increasingly uneasy at the pressure from the party leadership to ensure they are busy selling government policy in the constituency rather than causing trouble at Westminster.

MORTGAGE ARREARS have begun to rise for the first time since the depths of the last recession, but borrowers are still struggling to cope with successive interest rate rises.

The head of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, Michael Coogan, said yesterday that figures due out next month would show the first rise in mortgage arrears since the early 1990s. He said that the first half of 1993 saw repossession peaks at 75,540 in 1991.

He said: "The indications are that some people are experiencing difficulties. Our arrears and repossession figures for the first half of 1993 are not yet complete, but so far the evidence is that there has been a significant increase in the numbers falling behind with their mortgage

reached the statistical bottom of the cycle, but it is worrying to see short-term arrears climbing again. Unless this problem is sensibly managed, the fear must be that there will be a further need to develop into much more serious problems, which could see repossession soaring again."

Repossession is now running at 32,000 a year, although the Government assumes they will continue at a rate of 30,000 a year for the next five years.

During the last housing recession, more than 400,000 properties were repossessed, the equivalent of the combined population of Sheffield and Nottingham. Around 1,000 families a week lost their homes in five years. More than a million more were displaced in homes worth less than they had paid for them. Many of these people have recently very recently escaped the debt trap.

And further interest rate rises could be on the way. Deutsche Bank economist James Barty believes another 0.25 per cent rise will hit homeowners in July or August, and could cause a run on the banks. He predicted borrowers would not see mortgage bills begin to fall for at least nine to 12 months.

His comments came as the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said that recent interest rate rises had effectively "put the brakes" on house price inflation. The slowdown in the labour market has also affected confidence, it stated.

British Homebuilding Society, the Nationwide, yesterday provided further evidence of a declining market when it reported prices rising more slowly than for a year.

It said property prices rose by 0.8 per cent a time, compared with 1.2 per cent a year. The average £66,871 home up by 11.3 per cent compared with a year ago.

But a Nationwide spokesman pointed to wide regional variations. "There has been a significant slowdown in London and the South-east, but activity in the Midlands and North remains buoyant."

In an attempt to head off a new crisis, the Council for Mortgage Lenders and the Association of British Insurers have launched a study into why borrowers are not taking out insurance against rising repossessions.

Mr Coogan said that while lenders would take every action necessary to help borrowers in trouble, "the assistance would be of 'limited value' unless borrowers took steps to protect themselves.

The council is also concerned about the activities of so-called "non-student" lenders, which are not regulated. Borrowers with a poor credit history. They impose extortionate charges and fines on borrowers who default.

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the evidence/ Suspect
claim failing memory and
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tion of Islam/The Mill

THE poorer edges of London, the proud men in black suits, white shirts and red ties are making their Standard bearing the Nation of Islam can be seen in the Goldhawk Road, Stoke Newington and Tottenham selling publications: The Final United States Import, British version, The Times.

Young black men and white pass, ask if you can read the truth or destruction. We need the truth, they say.

They converts agree to the Nation's discipline.

they learn of the demands. "A separation of their territory of their on this continent or elsewhere. A prohibition of their marriage is another two years ago."

raking, the Chicago Nation of Islam banner of brown. Sir joined in the March to Washington in 1963 of black men in the U.S. The march was rather the root black leader in America.

With the success more members, both U.S. and Britain Nations in London there in the Goldhawk Road.

new recruits are after the prophet Malcolm X.

The prophet





Members of the Nation of Islam militant group gather outside before the arrival of the five suspects in the Lawrence inquiry, and the outbreak of violence which forced the hearing to be suspended

The unanswered questions

The evidence/ Suspects claim failing memory and lack of concern over accusations of racism and violent intentions in police surveillance video

David Pallister

JAMIE Accourt, the first of the five suspects to take the stand in the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, was left in no doubt about the hostile reception he was going to get as he strutted into the building in his sunglasses, dark suit and open-necked, blue-checked shirt. "Murderers," the protesters chanted outside—and, once he had taken the witness stand, a large section of the public gallery, including the Nation of Islam militants, raised their fists and turned their backs.

Mr Lawson began with knives. Accourt, aged 22, admitted that when he was arrested for Stephen's murder on May 7 1993 weapons including a tiger lock knife and a Gurkha knife were found in a bedroom at his house. Asked to whom they belonged he said: "It was not my bedroom. I'm not sure."



Neil Accourt: 'You say things you don't mean'



David Norris: angry at being accused of killing

'Can't you remember that kind of racist comment?' 'I can't remember.' 'Shocked, are you?' 'I ain't shocked.'

The inquiry chairman, Sir William Macpherson, eventually intervened, saying: "You said you were willing to help by speaking the truth. Having seen the surveillance video you must know that they showed the most terrible racism."

Mr Mansfield asked him about an incident when he was arrested on Chislehurst High Street on May 30 1992 for carrying an offensive weapon in a public place. Accourt replied: "You tell me."

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Separatist message wins UK converts

Nation of Islam/The Million Man March in Washington gained Louis Farrakhan followers in Britain but his disciples here have split

Markus Nicol

AT THE poorer edges of London, the proud men in black suits, bow ties and red shoes are making their presence felt. Standard bearers of the Nation of Islam can be found in the Goldhawk Road, Brixton, Stoke Newington and Tottenham selling their publications: The Final Call, a United States import, and the British version, The Sign of the Times.

Two years ago Louis Farrakhan, the Chicago-based Nation of Islam leader who is banned from Britain, was joined in the Million Man March to Washington by one in 10 of black men across the US. The march made Mr Farrakhan the most powerful black leader in America.



Scuffles with police outside the inquiry yesterday

'Separatism doesn't take people forward; they lock themselves into a culture of blame'


Mr Farrakhan, a former calypso singer, claims to have been visited by aliens, believes the world is run by a Jewish conspiracy and says Jews are out to get blacks. He once called Hitler a "great man".

They went to the US to meet Mr Farrakhan and replace their "slave" oaths with an "X", and returned to set up a mosque in Brixton. In the early 1990s the group split between two charismatic leaders, Leo, who was responsible for yesterday's action, and Wayne. Each now runs a separate mosque. Leo, a former stand-up comedian, is said to be able to drive his message home with a joke.

Lawrence inquiry turns into fiasco

Continued from page 1 Lawrence made his way down to the angry crowd, cordoned behind steel barriers in the shopping centre below. Security staff were shaking as police sealed doors on the ground floor as a crowd of around 300 chanted outside. One of the handful of non-white officers, an Asian, was put in front of the doorway, the most visible spot. It did little to calm the crowd.

Police reinforcements leaped off vans and sprinted into the shopping complex's main entrance. Adrenaline raced in after police. A Metropolitan police press officer was attempting damage limitation. CS gas had been sprayed, but only by one officer. Chief Inspector Bob Kelly and another officer had been knocked to the ground and were being kicked, so their colleagues had no other choice.



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Orange order's 'last stand' looms

John Mullin on mounting tension over Sunday's Drumcree march

CUT David Jones, and his blood might just flow Orange. He was born into the order, literally. For 42 years his father was caretaker at the Carleton Orange Hall in Portadown, the start and finish point for the annual march to the Church of Ascension at Drumcree on the outskirts of the Co Armagh town. It was in the apartment which went with the job that Rab Jones's son was born in 1952.

Mr Jones's father also delivered coal, and his patch included the Garvaghy Road. David recalls as a boy walking behind him as he marched on the Sunday before July 12 every year, with residents shouting greetings to him. He says: "No one was much bothered then. People used to come out and watch us. There was no trouble. But Sinn Féin has got a hold of it now. It is orchestrating the opposition, and residents are intimidated into demonstrating against us." However, nationalists say that parliamentary records prove there have been disputes over Orange marches in Portadown, the order's birthplace, its members first marched to Drumcree in 1807. The troubles, allied to a 1980s building programme, with council houses thrown up, led to a worsening atmosphere around the return leg of the six-mile parade. After 1969, there were mass

shifts of Protestants and Catholics in Portadown. Mixed areas became exclusive communities, and the estates on Garvaghy Road became almost 100 per cent Catholic. About 6,000 people live there now.

Nationalists gradually asserted their confidence. They became more willing to display their annoyance at the march, with all the trappings of Protestant supremacy, through their neighbourhoods.

There are more than 3,000 Orange parades in Northern Ireland every year, and only around 16 are contentious. The Parades Commission has so far ruled on 12 in all but one, it has decided to re-route. Drumcree, one of the oldest marches of all, has assumed ridiculous significance. It is no less than the last stand for Orangemen, who feel their rights are being eroded.

They think the Good Friday agreement is the latest in a long line of sell-outs; that David Trimble, an Orangeman, helped draw it up makes him a traitor. The republican murder last December of loyalist commander Billy Wright, a key figure in the 1996 stand-off, the bombing of Portadown in February, and the Loyalist Volunteer Force shooting dead in April of Adrian Lamph, 22, a Catholic from the Carvaghy Road, have heightened tensions. There seems no way out. The recent battles began in



A boy carrying tyres yesterday for a July 12 bonfire in a Protestant area of Portadown, Co Armagh. PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS RICHMOND

1995 when Protestants were finally re-routed away from Obins Street, a nationalist area on the outward leg. They have since accepted that, and take an alternative route.

Garvaghy Road, a non-descript arterial route, first rocketed to public attention in 1995. There was a two-day stand-off as nationalists for

Unionists, infuriated nationalists. But it was nothing compared to 1996. The RUC banned the march, and many of the 80,000 Orangemen in Northern Ireland rushed to the area. They camped around the Rev John Picking's church and drew up plans to spray the ranks of

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, tried her best last year. She shuttled between sides in a vain effort to find a compromise. She failed to keep a promise to nationalists that she would tell them of the decision on the march, and that created a bitter legacy. It went ahead.

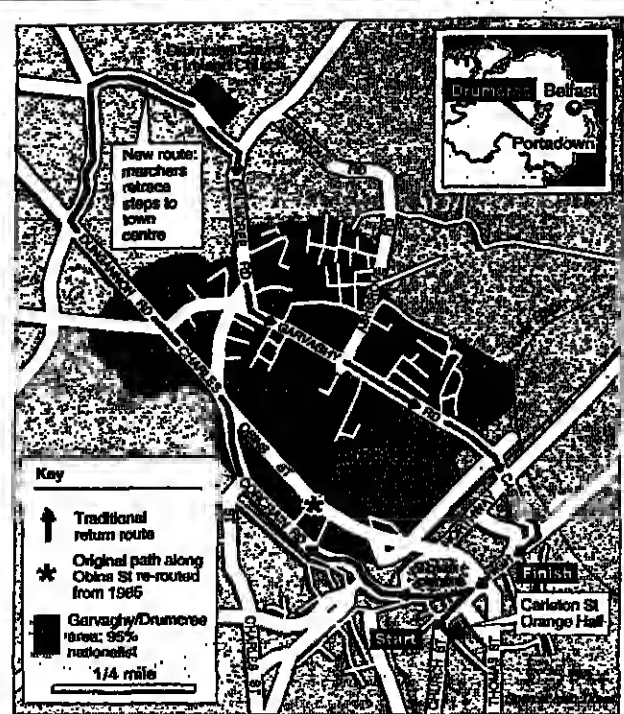
This year, the task fell to the Parades Commission, set up to rule on contentious marches. It is headed by trade union official Alistair Graham, and is supposed to make its own decisions. But its independence was thrown into doubt in April, and many believe it will never recover.

Except, retorts Mr MacCionnaith, that several loyalist terrorists play a prominent role in the Orange Order in Portadown. He points out that during the 1996 Drumcree crisis loyalists killed taxi-driver Michael McCordick, 31, from nearby Lurgan. "It is not the manner of the parade. It is the overall context, and Portadown is a bad place for nationalists," he adds.

bands playing, and members march six abreast instead of two to get through the area quickly. It took them seven minutes last year.

He says that a small community of 100 Protestant families at the lower end of the Garvaghy Road suffer intimidation from Catholics throughout the year.

They also are annoyed that Braandán MacCionnaith, jailed for six years in 1982 over offences leading to the bombing of the British Legion Hall, speaks for the Garvaghy Road residents. They say they refuse to speak to terrorists.



Government will fund larger church schools

John Carvel
Education Editor

CHURCH schools are to escape the costs of building extra classrooms to deliver the Government's pledge to eliminate oversized classes for five to seven-year-olds, ministers said yesterday.

Under the normal rules, voluntary-aided church schools would have to meet 15 per cent of any capital costs of developing their property — a recognition of their autonomous status outside local authority control. But ministers feared some might not be able to afford to invest the £100,000 needed for an extra classroom to deliver Labour's core manifesto

pledge to limit infant classes to a maximum of 30. Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, said the Government would pay the full cost of extra classroom space in 100 church schools in

'The pursuit of smaller classes will have damaging side effects'

the first wave of the programme, to be announced this week. There will also be 100 per cent funding for extra classrooms in 500 local authority and grant-maintained primaries.

David Willetts, the shadow education secretary, said smaller classes were desirable, but the Government's single-minded pursuit of that objective would have damaging side-effects. Many popular primaries would have to turn away pupils or reorganise the children into classes of more than one year-group.

"Mr Byers keeps on asserting his objectives, but he cannot explain how every class will be limited to 30 without a reduction in parental choice and more mixed-age classes," he said. Church school governors should take care that extra funding from the Government did not draw them into "a bear hug from the centre" that might damage their distinctive character.

The Local Government Association warned last week that the Government would fail to deliver the class size pledge if it did not give popular schools the right to ignore parents' preferences and refuse admission to surplus pupils. It said ministers were promising the impossible by telling parents that they could have smaller classes for five to seven-year-olds as well as the right to demand a place in the school of their choice.

Mr Byers said 1,500 extra primary teachers would be recruited by September, benefiting 100,000 of the 494,000 children in oversized infant classes. The £40 million capital grants to be announced this week would build classrooms for a further expansion of the teaching force in September 1999. It would be targeted at popular schools delivering high standards.

Romantic to the end



Catherine Cookson, who died earlier this month, with husband Tom who died on Sunday

PHOTOGRAPH: TED DITCHFIELD

Friends say Catherine Cookson's widower died of a broken heart

TOM Cookson, the widower of author Dame Catherine, has died less than three weeks after his wife, writes Peter Hetherington. Mr Cookson died on Sunday, aged 88, after spending less than a week in hospital.

Dame Catherine died at her home in Jesmond, Newcastle, on June 11, aged 91, after a long illness.

Tom Cookson always referred to her as Kitty. "With her by my side I believed there was nothing I could not do," he once said. Friends said that Mr Cookson had lost the will to live. "He had been in hospital for a week and was heart broken at losing his wife," a friend said yesterday.

The couple met in 1937 when Catherine was a boarding house in Hastings where Tom, a teacher, lodged. They were married when she was 33 and he was 27.

A statement issued on behalf of the Cookson family said: "Mr Cookson died peacefully in hospital on Sunday, June 28. There will be a public funeral, details

of which will be announced later." Barrie Scorer, mayor of South Tyneside, where Dame Catherine set her most famous books, said: "He won widespread admiration as a devoted husband. Throughout his long married life he gave unstinting support and encouragement. He was the man behind the woman."

Anthony Scriven QC, defending Billie-Jo, said the case was a complex relationship between her and her foster father.

In his closing speech to the jury at Lewes Crown Court, Richard Camden Pratt QC, prosecuting, said Sion Jenkins's motive for murder lay in that relationship. Jenkins, aged 40, denies murdering Billie-Jo, aged 13, with an 18in metal tent spike as she painted the patio doors of the family home in Hastings, East Sussex, on February 15 last year. She died of multiple blows to the head. "We have a complex relationship between a foster child — a teenager — and a foster father. It is complex," Mr Pratt told the jury.

"It said when I opened this case that the motive of the defendant for killing Billie-Jo would probably go to the grave with her," he added.

"But the roots of this case lie in that complex relationship. It is not a case where a motiveless crime makes sense."

He suggested that Jenkins, a deputy headmaster, may have lashed out after a frustrating day. He also told the jury that forensic scientists had found 156 invisible spots of blood on his clothing. The "impact spatter" could only have caused by him striking Billie-Jo repeatedly.

Between 1993 and 1997 there had been 45 burglaries in the street where they lived, and the Jenkins family have been victims of crime four times, the jury was told. "You might be forgiven for thinking that the police focus was to look for someone with a psychiatric history or someone with a history of violence or at least someone who was a well-known burglar," Mr Scriven added.

Foster links at 'root of murder'

Luke Harding

THE JURY at the Billie-Jo Jenkins murder trial was told yesterday that the case was a complex relationship between her and her foster father.

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The company is also developing a heart pacemaker monitoring service and a similar system for diabetes and asthma sufferers.

to sign up to the service, said: "People suffering with heart palpitations and odd heartbeats get really stressed by the thought of going into hospital for tests. We have only used it with six patients so far, but we are already finding that it is easy to use and bringing health services closer to people's homes."

Caryl Gibbs, of the Riverside health centre in Cardiff, who was one of the first GPs

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Under the terms of Budget Plan the monthly payment will be amended from April 1999 or from the next review date for mortgage accounts on Annual Review.



Telephone monitor for heart palpitations

Helen Carter

A REVOLUTIONARY "telemedicine" centre which allows heart patients to be monitored via a phone link was launched yesterday with the potential to reduce NHS costs and cut waiting lists.

Patients using the Lifesign system hold the lightweight credit-card size machine to their chest for 30 seconds during a heart palpitation. They

then dial a freephone number and the ECG reading from their heartbeat is transferred to cardiac technicians at a call centre in Cardiff. The data is converted into graph form which is faxed to the patient's doctor or consultant.

At present, 1,600 GPs have subscribed to the International Telemedicine Services system which costs £25 per patient, per fortnight. Studies are taking place at three hospitals to see if it is viable for wider use within the NHS.

It was developed by the company's chairman, Ronnie Royston, after he was given a pacemaker three years ago in the US and was linked to a similar monitoring system. "Diagnosing and monitoring patients quickly and efficiently by telephone is going to save a great deal of money," he said.

The company's national sales manager, Adam Wragg, said: "At present, if the patient goes to their GP complaining of palpitations, they

are attached to a 12-lead ECG machine in the surgery — but many patients don't have palpitations there and then. "Patients are normally referred to cardiologists which costs £800 and it can take many weeks before they are seen. Of those, around 40 per cent are suffering from abnormal heart beats, which are often just caused by diet or stress."

Caryl Gibbs, of the Riverside health centre in Cardiff, who was one of the first GPs

to sign up to the service, said: "People suffering with heart palpitations and odd heartbeats get really stressed by the thought of going into hospital for tests. We have only used it with six patients so far, but we are already finding that it is easy to use and bringing health services closer to people's homes."

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The Guardian Tuesday June 30 1998

News in brief

Man who murdered grandchild gets life

A MAN was jailed for life yesterday for murdering his three-year-old granddaughter, who he hurled to her death from a seventh floor balcony following a drinking binge. Judge Geoffrey Grigson told Anthony Volney: "You're as cold as ice and as callous as to be almost beyond belief." Volney, from Kibbourn, north-west London, had denied murdering Sasha Davies last August. A neighbour initially thought that a bag of rubbish was falling to the ground, Dorian Lovell-Pank QC, prosecuting had told the Old Bailey. Volney had been babysitting his granddaughter and returned to his flat after he was asked to leave a local club, where he had caused trouble. "He was variously described as drunk, staggering, and was generally thought not to be fit to be looking after a small child in that condition," Mr Lovell-Pank said.

Gripes against lawyers rise

COMPLAINTS against the legal profession are at an all-time high, with one in every three solicitors attracting a formal complaint in 1997. Complaints against barristers are also rising - to one against every 21 barristers last year, an increase of 50 per cent - although the public's contact with barristers is much more limited. The figures come from the annual report of Ann Abraham, the legal services ombudsman, to be published today. Ms Abraham said lawyers and their professional bodies still had "a long way to go" to deliver the three pre-requisites for being allowed to continue regulating themselves: speedy resolution of complaints, greater credibility in the eyes of complainants, and effective redress. — *Clare Dyer*

Transport plea rebuffed

TWO men who are allergic to daylight are not entitled to a government allowance to help them pay for transport, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday. Both men had claimed they were eligible for the £35-a-week mobility allowance as they cannot walk outside because of their skin blisters and are left in "severe discomfort". But the appeal judges decided that the social security rules stipulate that only those whose "severe discomfort" is caused by the physical act of walking can get the allowance. Anthony Hewitt, aged 40, from Manchester, and Mark Diment, 32, from south London, can walk indoors but cannot move outside during the day because of their rare condition - porphyria. The ruling will affect around 2,000 people.

Gay culture trailblazer

BRITAIN'S first professor of lesbian and gay studies was appointed yesterday by Nottingham Trent University. Greg Woods, 45-year-old author of a history of gay literature, said his promotion was a "slightly brave" decision to give recognition to a young academic discipline that was not yet universally respected. Mr Woods, a lecturer at Nottingham Trent since 1990, has taught courses on contemporary gay issues. — *John Carvel*

High prices mean boom town

A STUDY by a Swiss economic research company which claims London is the most expensive city in Western Europe was yesterday hailed not as a cause for concern but as proof of the capital's success. London Chamber of Commerce's director of policy, Andrew Hawkins, said the capital's economic success made it a more desirable place to live and work and so inevitably more

Judge praises the honesty of 'devoted' daughter who helped her distressed mother to end her life

Free after aiding suicide

Martin Wainwright

A WOMAN who helped her mother to commit suicide in the face of 15 months probation yesterday by a judge who praised her honesty, courage and devotion.

Gillian Jennison, a university lecturer, made no attempt to hide the fact that she had given sleeping pills to her mother, Anna Wilkes, aged 83, at her request, and then smothered her with a pillow as she lay unconscious.

Jennison, aged 53, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, was originally charged with murder, which she denied, but she admitted the subsequent charge of aiding and abetting her mother's suicide. She walked free from Leeds crown court after the probation order.

She was told by Mrs Justice Smith that assisting suicide was a serious offence but that the circumstances were exceptional and showed plainly that she was a "caring and loving daughter".

The sentence was welcomed by the Voluntary Euthanasia Society as "sympathetic and constructive", joining some half-dozen cases a year in which people who assisted suicide at a family member's request have been treated with understanding by the courts.

A society spokeswoman, Libby Dickson, said the case also highlighted the need for legal reform, to allow people to make decisions for themselves at the end of their lives.

The court heard that Jennison, a lecturer in trade union studies at Bradford university, had been told a year ago by



Gillian Jennison... year's probation PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL BARKER

her mother that she wanted to die. Mrs Wilkes had begun to suffer from dementia two years earlier and had endured hospital treatment and periods in a rest home which she disliked.

James Goss QC, prosecuting, said that on July 18 last year, Mrs Wilkes had been taken to Jennison's home in a distressed state. She was "confused, said she felt dreadful and wished she was dead". She said she could not face going back to a nursing home. Mother and daughter drank

sherry together, then Mrs Wilkes asked for her sleeping pills, taking a heavy overdose after Jennison handed them over. Jennison also took a few of the pills, went out to drop the empty packet in a skip and returned to find her mother unconscious but still breathing.

The court heard that she then placed a pillow over Mrs Wilkes's head, holding it there for a few moments until breathing stopped.

Mr Goss said that Jennison later told police that "the

'What you did was in the honest belief that it was what your mother wanted - there was no hint of ulterior motive'

Mrs Justice Smith

state her mother was in made her feel that not to go along with her wishes would have been very cruel. She did not consider the consequences. She just wanted to help her mother."

Michael Harrison QC, defending, said Jennison, who immediately called a doctor and explained what she had done, had "no capacity to dissemble or deceive". He called the case "wholly exceptional, involving no ulterior motive on Mrs Jennison's part". Mrs Justice Smith told



Anna Wilkes... dementia sufferer PHOTOGRAPH: ROSS PARRY

Jennison: "It must not be thought that where a friend or member of the family takes this kind of step it will necessarily be treated in the way in which I intend to treat you. But what you did was done in the honest belief that it was what your mother wanted and that there was no hint of an ulterior motive behind your conduct."

Jennison, who has two children, was told her probation order would provide support after the trauma of the trial and originally facing a mur-

der charge, which carries a mandatory life sentence. The judge said she had shown "considerable courage" in telling the doctor and police what she had done.

The sentence was criticised by opponents of voluntary euthanasia. Peggy Norris of the group Alert said: "Mrs Jennison's mother was clearly incapacitated and in no state to know her own mind. This is sending out the wrong message, a dreadful message. These are the patients who need total protection."

Wrinkly rockers top pop's cash mountain

Dan Glaister on chart plutocrats

PAUL McCartney's is not just one of the smallest, and Tom Jones would have trouble squeezing his into his trousers.

The first survey of the richest rock stars in Britain and Ireland places the former Beatle at the top, with an estimated £500 million. Behind come a string of white male rock stars, most of whom started their careers in the 1960s and have spent the last three decades earning significantly more than they spent on their flamboyant lifestyles.

New acts are pushed down the chart by the financial acumen of their seniors, while the highest placed women are Enya and Dolores O'Riordan of the Cranberries, tied at £27 million. The survey, compiled by Q magazine, shows that rock stars, whatever their generation, have a penchant for the good things in life. Cars, country mansions and aero-

planes all feature prominently on the shopping lists of the rock and famous. But there are some eccentrics among the sensible savers. Elton John, at number three with some £150 million, is renowned for his extravagance. He once had 14 cars, and on one occasion a £1 million limo action went to a Saville Row tailor and bought the shop's contents. In 1996, he was the highest-earning British artist in a single year - with £40.7 million.

Former Genesis singer Phil Collins, with £105 million, is both a more modest spender and a "doorbolic". His treats for life at home by Lake Geneva are imported HP sauce, piccalilli and Marmite.

Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards, at number six with a mere £100 million, once owned three Rolls-Royces, even though he could not drive. According to Q, his weekly bills as a tax exile in 1971 included £1,000 each on

food and alcohol, and £2,500 each on drugs and rent. McCartney far outstrips his nearest rivals, as well as the surviving ex-Beatles. His publishing company MPL, which owns the rights to Happy Birthday, is the biggest independent music publisher in the world, while he has also invested in his late wife's food ventures. Intriguingly, last year Linda McCartney earned more than her husband. "He displays both the insouciant

self-indulgence of the mega-rich and a matching generosity," says Q magazine.

His generosity includes charitable donations, while his most curious luxury is Magritte's easel - a Christmas present from Linda - on which he paints.

Journalist Phil Sutcliffe, who co-compiled the list, said: "There were several we could not track down, including Boy George, Robert Palmer and Bryan Ferry. Either they

are in Britain and are concealed behind other names or they are not directors of their companies, or they may have expatriated their accounts."

Several names on the list, notably fifth-placed David Bowie, have used the stock exchange to make loan issues, although contemporary artists are generally low on the list - largely because they have not been working as long as the rock dinosaurs.

Former Take 7 star Robbie Williams just makes the list with £33.8 million, while the Spice Girls are joint 2nd with £12 million each. "Williams managed to get through his first fortune and is now building his second based on his solo career," said Sutcliffe. "The Spice Girls' fortune has been shared between management and writers, and they allegedly paid £10 million in severance to former manager Simon Fuller. But they are prodigious earners for new artists."

Rock's richest

- 1 Paul McCartney £500m
- 2 Elton John £150m
- 3 Mick Jagger £125m
- 4 Phil Collins £105m
- 5 David Bowie £100m
- 6 Keith Richards £100m
- 7 U2 £90m each
- 8 Sting £90m
- 9 George Harrison £80m
- 10 Eric Clapton £75m

- 11 Ringo Starr £70m
- 12 Charlie Watts £60m
- 13 Rod Stewart £60m
- 14 Dave Gilmour £60m
- 15 Robert Plant £55m
- 16 Mark Knopfler £55m
- 17 Jimmy Page £55m
- 18 Brian May £50m
- 19 George Michael £50m
- 20 Tom Jones £50m



Robin Cook... 'we have to feel that we are British and European too' PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Relaxed Cook has a feel for European agenda

As Britain's EU presidency ends, Martin Walker talks to the Foreign Secretary

AT THE end of the six-month marathon of the UK presidency, Robin Cook says that he feels distinctly more European, and that Europeans have finally accepted Britain as a full member of the team.

"There has been a 180 degree turn which has fundamentally altered our relations with Europe. It is good for us and good for Europe. And yes, I feel more comfortable, more confident in European circles."

"Even of the other European governments are with us in the Socialist International. And while it is not exclusive and does not work as a caucus, our informal discussions before the full-scale meetings do matter."

Yet by contrast, Mr Cook says that if he has learned one thing in his six months running the General Affairs Council, the EU's main co-ordinating body, it has been the importance of Britain's American relationship.

"It helped us resolve that nasty trade row over American sanctions (against EU companies trading with Cuba or Iran). And the fact that we are now fully engaged in Europe boosts Britain in Washington. And it helps that I have as good a relationship with the American Secretary of State as any foreign secretary has had in twenty years," he adds, with characteristic modesty.

"This is Britain's added value for Europe. We have that relationship, and we are on the United Nations security council and in the G8. So on Iraq or on the Middle East or Kosovo, we can use these

different roles to try and get the institutions working together. I think that's why we have a united international position on Kosovo, by contrast with the years of disarray over Bosnia."

"I have learned just how pivotal this network of contacts can be, and not forgetting the Commonwealth, which has helped us get things moving with Nigeria."

Mr Cook, in a pensive but cheerful mood, sipping coffee in his shirt-tails and brushed aside the three most controversial incidents in the UK presidency.

"Only in Britain and in Israel was my visit to Har Homa seen as anything but courageous and honourable. It was not contentious in Europe, where the other foreign ministers knew I was carrying out our common policy," Mr Cook insisted.

"The difficult weekend in Brussels when we launched the euro was not a dispute between countries, where the EU presidency can mediate. It was disputes within the French and the German delegations, where the presidency can hardly intervene. And taken as a whole, it all worked. The euro was launched and the markets were happy."

Mr Cook was less robust in explaining the widespread EU criticism of Britain's role in the Iraq crisis, where Dutch foreign minister Haa van Mierlo publicly complained that the UK worked with Washington and failed to consult the EU. "Britain's view had the most support, 11 out of 15 nations sent contribu-

tions to the Gulf task force."

He ticks off his personal list of successes: a common EU position on China and human rights; a common position on engaging with Iran; on Kosovo and the Middle East; and on the reaction to the new nuclear status of India and Pakistan.

"There is inadequate recognition that we have gone a long way towards a common EU foreign policy, all the while maintaining our British insistence that these positions be reached by consensus." It comes down, Mr Cook says, to personal chemistry between foreign ministers, who have to settle the disputes which officials have found unbridgeable.

Mr Cook is respected by his EU peers as a brisk and fair chairman, who gave them all a memorable weekend in his home town of Edinburgh. But he could be facing one problem for which the foreign ministers trade union will never forgive him. It was on Mr Cook's watch that the scheme was first publicly floated by the commission to take away their real power.

Since the Treaty of Rome, the job of co-ordinating Brussels and member states, and preparing all the action agendas for EU summits, has been entrusted to the foreign ministers, meeting as the General Affairs Council.

Claiming that the ministers were too obsessed with foreign policy, the commission president Jacques Santer wants to replace them with a new high-power council of deputy prime ministers. Mr Cook's successor, Austrian foreign minister Wolfgang Schüssel, has pledged to block the plan.

Secretary sacked for excessive mourning over death of Diana

Helen Carter

A SECRETARY who was also traumatised by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, that she spent a week crying and writing poems in her memory, was sacked from her job at a football club as her grief became too embarrassing for her employers, an industrial tribunal heard yesterday.

Jeanne Cummings claims she was unfairly dismissed from Kingstonian Football Club after she complained that she had been sexually harassed by the club's financial director, Robert Wolfson.

But its director, Chris Kelly, told the tribunal in Croydon, south London, that she went "completely over the top" with grief after Diana's death last August.

"Everybody was sad, but it seemed to affect her rather more strongly," he said. "She was having conversations on the phone with friends about how tragic it was, and I found on her desk numerous little notes and ditties to the princess which had obviously been composed at work."

"It was embarrassing to have someone in that state. She was not capable of doing her job."

Miss Cummings, aged 38, from Barnes, south-west London, was dismissed from her £12,000-a-year job last September, a week before the end of her two-month probation. She claims Mr Wolfson asked her to accompany him for weekends in Paris and pestered her for sex.

She was sacked, she claims, when she complained about his behaviour. "I was walking down the corridor, and he came up and started asking me about my love life," she said. "I was beginning to feel physically sickened by his behaviour. Whenever he was in the office he would make me feel physically uncomfortable."

Mr Wolfson said: "I deny any overture of a sexual nature and find these allegations ludicrous... I am a happily married with two children, and I do not see how it would have been possible for me to take a trip to Paris."

He claimed that Miss Cummings was suffering from "mental disturbance" or was motivated by financial gain.

The hearing continues.

What were these young Amish men doing distributing cocaine when their traditions ban even alcohol and tobacco? The devil comes calling

G2 cover story

English blamed as police bill rises

Jon Henley and John Duncan in St Etienne

WORLD Cup organisers are praying for an England defeat tonight after it was revealed that most of its security budget is already spent.

The French government set aside £10 million for policing the entire tournament, with the tournament organisers contributing £4 million.

"It is impossible to say now by how much the original budget will be exceeded," a French interior ministry spokesman said. "But it is clear that it will be exceeded by a substantial sum. Since England's match in Marseille and Germany's in Lens, the security operation for these teams' matches alone has had to be doubled."

Policing England has cost the French taxpayer almost four times as much as other teams, with the cost of extra officers for England's matches in Marseille, Toulouse and Lens calculated at £1.07 million, according to interior ministry figures.

By contrast, the total cost of policing three other games at the same venues - France v South Africa, South Africa v Denmark and Spain v Bulgaria - was only £263,500, the ministry said.

The number of officers has to be doubled when England are playing and, instead of the standard one-and-a-half days on duty, officers are booked for three full days to police England's estimated 25,000 fans.

The calculations are made assuming that each officer costs £55 per day. England's match against Columbia last Friday required 1,200 police in Lens, where the game was

played, and 1,000 in Lille, the nearest large town where many fans stayed. On top of that came an additional 500 plainclothes officers on duty in both towns, and a heavy police presence in Calais.

In St Etienne, where England play Argentina in a potentially high risk match tonight, the regional prefect, Jean-Yves Audouin, has boosted the police operation to 1,500 from 900 for all the town's previous matches.

Mr Audouin yesterday reiterated his stance that there would be no alcohol ban in the town. "We have had no problems here before, so why should we have any now?" he asked. "If England get to the final, are you suggesting that all the bars in Paris should be shut down?"

He did, however, say that he would review the policy. France had mobilised one of its largest security operations since the second world war for the World Cup, with over 6,000 officers a day originally planned to be on duty on match days.

But the interior minister, Jean-Pierre Chevènement, admitted yesterday that the scale of the challenge facing the French police had been gravely underestimated.

"We have had to deal with people who were not familiar with," he said. "We have no experience of German and English hooligans. Everything had to go well inside the stadiums, and it has, but we have had to adapt ourselves to the fact that hooligans have let rip in the towns. That we did not expect, and that is new to us."

Tests hope for paralysis treatment

Tim Radford Science Editor

ISRAELI scientists claim to have helped paralysed rats to move their legs in research which offers hope to paraplegic accident victims.

The news - published in the latest Nature Medicine - comes only days after US scientists announced that they had "grown" new kidneys in the bodies of laboratory rats.

Both teams of researchers claim success with techniques which depend on a new understanding of how the body copes with injury.

The Israeli team isolated cells from the rats' immune system and incubated them in a test tube which contained damaged nerve tissue - a process which "taught" the immune cells to recognise damaged nerves as a proper target. She then returned the stuff to the injured rats - and later watched them kick with legs that had been completely paralysed. Some were even able to stand.

The journal Nature International reported last week that two scientists at the Washington university school of medicine in St Louis, Missouri, had found a new way to grow kidneys. Marc Hammerman took tiny developing kidneys the size of pencil points and placed them in the shelter of the kidneys of adult laboratory rats. They should have been rejected - but somehow the rats' immune systems were fooled and the foreign kidneys grew.

"We are not at the point where these kidneys could sustain life, but we're working on it," said Professor Hammerman.

Serbs fight to retake key mine

Jonathan Steele in Pristina and Ian Black in London

SERBIAN forces claimed last night to have recaptured part of a strategic coal mine vital to Kosovo's power supply from ethnic Albanian gunmen who seized it last week.

Serb sources said police used tear gas to take control of the management complex at the Belcevac mine, six miles west of the disputed province's capital, Pristina. Yugoslav army units were also involved in the operation to dislodge the Albanians.

The loss was not confirmed by ethnic Albanian sources who accused the Serbs of attacking Albanian-populated villages around the mine.

Reporters said a large force of police backed by armoured vehicles moved into the mining complex early yesterday and that detonations and gunfire could be heard during the day. At least three houses burned in the neighbouring village of Ade.

The Serb media centre said there were no casualties, but with signs of international confusion about how to handle the Kosovo crisis, diplomats fear that if fighting intensifies it could bring a flare-up in the many regions of the province where the two sides are at a standoff over demands by the ethnic Albanians who dominate Kosovo for independence from Serbia.

Yesterday's operation started two hours after dawn when police with armoured personnel carriers sealed off the road to Belcevac. The Yugoslav army has a large base barely 300 yards from the management buildings.

The surprise was that the security forces had not acted against the lightly armed insurgents of the Kosovo Liberation Army several days earlier. The Albanians themselves were expecting a counter-attack after they ousted the mine to a half-dozen Wednesday by kidnapping nine Serb miners.

After this the rest of the 1,700-member workforce stayed at home.

Belcevac supplies coal for

two power plants that provide electricity for the province of Kosovo and the rest of the national grid throughout Serbia.

Christopher Hill, the United States ambassador in Macedonia who deputises for Richard Holbrooke, the main American troubleshooter on Kosovo, renewed American efforts to broker a ceasefire yesterday. He was to meet President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade and then fly to Pristina to meet a Kosovo Albanian negotiating team.

Veton Surroi, a member of the Kosovo negotiating team, warned yesterday that the situation threatened to spiral out of control. "If this police and military attack at Belcevac continues it will create a military response by the KLA in other areas that could make it impossible to reach any kind of negotiated solution in Kosovo."

In Luxembourg, meanwhile, European Union foreign ministers appeared divided over US suggestions that the KLA be dismissed until recently as a terrorist organisation — should take part in peace talks with Belgrade.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, chairing the last ministerial meeting to be held during Britain's presidency of the EU, said talks must include "those who represent all shades of Kosovo opinion".

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said yesterday that Western countries must strengthen Kosovo's border with Macedonia and Albania. Mr Ashdown, who spent last week in Kosovo, said after meeting Mr Holbrooke that there must be action to prevent an upsurge in Albanian nationalism.

"We must make it clear to the Kosovars that absolute independence is not an option," he said. "But given the gains of the KLA on the ground and the increasing radicalisation of the Kosovo population, we may not be able to stop Kosovo seizing its independence whether we like it or not. If we can act now to strengthen the borders, then Macedonia and Albania can help to stop this happening."

UN orders inquiry after war crimes suspect's suicide

Richard Norton-Taylor

UNITED Nations and Dutch authorities were last night conducting a security inquiry after a Serb accused of playing a key role in the massacre of 200 mainly Croatian hospital patients hanged himself while awaiting the verdict of the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal.

Slavko Dokmanovic, a former mayor of the eastern Croatian city of Vukovar, was found hanging from the door of his cell in the Hague by a UN security guard shortly after midnight yesterday.

The suicide is embarrassing for the international tribunal, especially as Dokmanovic had been placed under 24-hour surveillance last year after an unspecified "incident".

The tribunal has been criticised for delays and problems obtaining evidence, difficulties compounded by the reluctance on the part of the international community to apprehend war criminals living openly in the former Yugoslavia.

This summer, in what many observers regard as a belated move, two new courtrooms will be added to its present one.

Since the tribunal was set up in 1993, only two indictments have been sentenced. Of these, Drazen Erdemovic, a Bosnian Croat who served in the Serb army, has had his sentence halved to five years and Serb Dusan Tadic is awaiting the outcome of an appeal against his 20-year term.

In May, Louise Arbour, the chief prosecutor, announced she was dropping charges against 14 Bosnian Serbs, almost a fifth of those on the tribunal's wanted list of 74 that includes the former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander, Ratko Mladic. Three Bosnian Croats have been released due to lack of evidence.

"Dokmanovic was in a bad psychological state because he is innocent and could not endure being unjustly accused," his lawyer, Zoran Jovanovic, said in Belgrade. Christian Chatter, the tribu-

nal's spokesman, said 24-hour monitoring was stopped at the request of the defence and on the advice of his psychiatrist who had been due to see him this week.

Dokmanovic was last seen alive by a guard at 11.30pm on Sunday. He had complained earlier of feeling unwell and was examined by a doctor who ordered that the light in his cell should be kept on throughout the night. He was checked every half hour.

"He was not described as far as I know, as a suicidal person... It was not a suicide watch," Mr Chatter said.

Dokmanovic's trial — which the prosecution described as evoking harrowing memories of the second world war — ended last week. The



Slavko Dokmanovic hanged himself in cell in the Hague

tribunal's verdict was due to be delivered on July 7. He faced possible life imprisonment if convicted.

Dokmanovic was arrested a year ago in the eastern Slavonia region of Croatia. He was accused, with three Yugoslav People's Army officers, of orchestrating the abduction and murder of the Vukovar hospital patients.

They were killed at a farm in the village of Ovchari outside Vukovar in November 1991. UN investigators said 260 patients were taken from the hospital by Serb forces. The bodies of 200 were dug up by war crimes investigators in Ovchari in 1996. The rest are missing.

Performers at the French park all want to take the part of Mickey. Paul Webster in Paris reports



Most of the marchers who play toy soldiers (above) in Disneyland's Main Street parade would prefer to be colonels than corporals, but Mickey Mouse (below) outranks them all

Toy soldiers' ranks thin as star-struck Disney dancers strike

T IRED of their anonymous daily grind in the shadow of the Magic Kingdom, dancers and marchers in Disneyland Paris's daily Main Street parade have begun a strike in the hope of winning a place among Mickey Mouse's elite.

"Unless we get promoted into more glamorous roles we will never get a proper reward for our acting," one of Sleeping Beauty's protesting handmaidens said yesterday, adding that she wanted to ride on the top of Sleeping Beauty's carriage like "a cherry on a cake".

The strike is one of the odder episodes of Disneyland's often troubled labour relations since the French government outbid other European countries for an undiluted chunk of American culture.

The agreement was finally signed 12 years ago by a supposedly anti-American Gaudier government headed by Jacques Chirac.

The agreement originally freed Disney playgrounds from French employment practices.

But, apart from odd rules banning moustaches and long hair on men, trade union activity since the complex of rides and hotels east of Paris opened seven years ago has brought working conditions largely into line with those of local competitors, such as the Asterix theme park north of the capital.

Unions, which once played a mole in the park to work as a train driver and report any management abuses, claim the basis of the Main Street strike is wages and conditions.

But "cast members", as the

staff are called, say a desire for stardom also plays a big part.

"It's understandable that if you are going to have to play a toy soldier it's better to be a colonel," one of the marchers said, refusing to give his name for "fear of a court martial".

The performer gave up his job in a department store to join Disneyland after visiting the original fair in California.

"I thought I'd have a chance to do some acting but I just tag on behind the rest of the marchers while the guy plays

the place of striking cast members.

But regular visitors have noticed that fairies and pirates have been in shorter supply than usual during the past five days.

Raymond Debeaux, a garage mechanic from the nearby suburb of Marne la Vallée, said his family were on one of their monthly visits and had been struck by the thin ranks of the Main Street parade.

"I thought it was because of the World Cup," he said. His family of six, who expected to spend at least £200 on their day out, were in the front row when about 150 dancers and marchers paid homage to Uncle Walt's memory. The park's giant floats recall the Disney empire's cartoons and films.

But the 45-minute extravaganza was cut back to half an hour because parts of the regular show had been dropped.

According to the Socialist-led CFDT trade union, which is behind the first Disneyland unrest for three years, about half the full-time parade cast has stopped marching. Shop stewards say glamour is not the central issue.

"There may be some workers who believe they would be better off as Cinderella or Goofy but the union is fighting to obtain a complete salary review for everybody," Jacky Chou, the CFDT leader at Disneyland said.

He said basic wages for parade members ranged from about £700 to £850 a month. "The lowest paid have been offered an extra 300 francs (about £30) but we want a 7 per cent increase," he said.

Trade unionists believe that the workers should be financially rewarded for the park's growing success. With more than 11 million visitors a year, the largest foreign contingent is British — profit forecasts are so healthy that the park's share price has jumped 77 per cent this year in London and Paris.

"There is still a tendency to exploit high unemployment among young people," Mr Chou said, recalling disputes in which foreign staff, including Britons, campaigned against excessive hours and poor accommodation.

The park's management, conscious of the potential impact of the strike on Disneyland's image, said the protest was not as popular as the

union made out, and that the number of strikers was dwindling after assurances of more interesting work and promotion.

"We are discussing the diversification of responsibilities for the 150 parade members individually," a personnel officer said. "In the meantime, the show goes on."

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Most of the marchers who play toy soldiers (above) in Disneyland's Main Street parade would prefer to be colonels than corporals, but Mickey Mouse (below) outranks them all

Moscow mayor agrees to let stray dogs lie

James Mack in Moscow

MOSCOW'S mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, has changed his policy on the capital's stray dogs problem after crossing swords with Brigitte Bardot.

When the French film star and animal rights campaigner attacked the mayor for plotting the extermination of the city's 25,000 strays, his first reaction was to sue the paper which printed her comments. Now he has yielded.

In a characteristically extravagant operation, microchips will be implanted in stray bitches once they have been caught and spayed. The dogs will then be released. The dog-catchers will be equipped with scanners to tell whether or not a stray dog has been treated.

"No Brigitte Bardot's going to call Moscow's mayor Luzhkov the dog-knacker any more," said Izvestiya newspaper. "The era of the extermination of strays is over."

The first dog to be sterilised, a pet named Zhuchka, was operated on and elec-

tronically tagged last week. She is to be released after 10 days recuperating at the city vet's.

Sergei Bugayev, of the Moscow department of urban fauna, says the programme is expected to reduce the number of stray dogs by half in three or four years.

The old system of extermination following complaints cost more than 21 million a year, Mr Bugayev said, and had been a waste of time.

The mayor's attitude towards homeless dogs contrasts with his treatment of homeless people. As part of a purge of men and women sleeping rough in Moscow in the run-up to his latest attention-grabbing venture, the World Youth Games, Mr Luzhkov has ordered a mobile medical centre for the homeless run by Médecins sans Frontières to be hidden from public view.

The order from the police said that because of the approaching games, our bus had to be put further away from the railway station, because guests are coming," said Antonina Cherneshova of the aid agency. "It's very hard to explain."

The dead mao, Orlando Marcelino da Costa, a farmer

East Timor police open fire on crowd

John Affinity in Jakarta

INDONESIAN intelligence agents shadowing a European Union troika of ambassadors around East Timor shot dead one man and injured four people when a crowd attacked their vehicle.

The agents, who had accompanied the diplomats from the East Timorese capital, Dili, to Baucau, were set upon outside the town's St Antonio Cathedral by 800 people who had gathered to welcome the diplomats, led by the British ambassador to Indonesia, Robin Christopher. Incensed by the six officers openly attempting to carry arms into the cathedral grounds, where the diplomats were meeting the bishop of Baucau, Basilio dos Nascimentos, people jumped on the van and pelted it with stones.

"The man in the front passenger seat opened fire with a pistol to the air," one witness said. "This was followed by tear gas and bullets from the back of the car, where one person fired at point blank range into the crowd."

As the crowd took refuge behind walls and houses, the agents ran to a military post near by. Their van was then set upon and destroyed.

The dead mao, Orlando Marcelino da Costa, a farmer

aged 35, was taken into the cathedral where Bishop Basilio gave him the last rites. A seriously injured man shot in the stomach was taken away in an ambulance. The three other injured, Diree Elizabeth Rosario, aged 15, Cesarino Jose da Costa, 19, and Jeronimo da Costa, 39, were taken into the cathedral for treatment.

Bishop Basilio told the crowd: "I am shocked and stunned. But we must get on with the process of peace."

Mr Christopher said: "I will let the United Nations know what I have seen in Dili and Baucau."

Yesterday's shooting was the second in three days in East Timor. Indonesia's governor of East Timor, Jose Soares, said last night he would "take strict measures against all those involved in anarchic activities".

In Jakarta, the Indonesian foreign minister, Ali Alatas, urged all sides to seek a peaceful solution to the territory's sovereignty. "It is better to find a peaceful solution that can be accepted by the majority of East Timorese as well as foreign countries and the United Nations." The UN still recognises Portugal as the administrative power. Mr Alatas ruled out a referendum on the territory's future.

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Leader celebra great le forward

John Gittings in Beijing on the unprecedented new 'love-in' between China and the US

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton on his second day in the White House, said that the US would not be a party to a new Cold War with China.

Mr Clinton's remarks came in a speech to Congress on Tuesday, his first day in the White House. He said that the US would not be a party to a new Cold War with China.

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St Michael's man

Frontline fighter

[illegible]



Blair shapes a hard corps

Downing Street needs to be a powerful centre, not just to sort out quarrels between the overmighty barons of the Cabinet but to sort out Labour's priorities. **Michael White** and **Richard Norton-Taylor** analyse the problems

It is not often that the serene structures of Whitehall attract the attention of a sitting prime minister, let alone make newspaper front pages. The machinery of government is an acquired taste which few politicians acquire except when it suits their pressing purposes.

Tony Blair is no different from most of his predecessors in that respect. But reform of a vital cog at the hub of the Whitehall machine is high on his crowded agenda. His next move after asking his six Cabinet colleagues, Sir Richard Wilson, to find a way of "strengthening the centre" of his government, the Prime Minister is poised to act.

seller's restless habit of parking his trucks on his colleagues' lawns during the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), now due in mid-July.

It is how the centre can effectively direct the centrifugal energies of a semi-autonomous ministry to serve the larger interests of government — and the public. The problem pre-dates the "autocratic premiership" which has grown during the Blair years, but it is a long-dominated politics. But the Blair style, both controlling and presidential, exacerbates it by the very expectations it creates. "Blair Steps In . . ." is a good title for a book on Blair to education policy. The trouble is, always has been, that the

The delivery mechanism in vogue is the Social Exclusion Unit, set up by Downing Street last autumn and staffed by a mix of high-flyers plus some outsiders. Its key characteristics are that it is intended to help a specific group — the poor, the unemployed and ill-educated — and that it is cross-departmental.

You can't tackle a problem, the theory runs, without bringing in everyone from Social Security to the Home Office via Transport. No point in getting people trained and into work if they can't get there by bus or train, or if they're hungry and need for the centre, in Downing Street or the Cabinet Office, to progress policies and politicians.

Add a dash of personality politics, the supposed prospect that Peter Mandelson is about to be made a ubiquitous "rival chancellor" to Gordon Brown, and the newspapers start paying attention, especially when a reshuffle looms.

What MPs and civil servants expect is that, by the time Sir Richard's report sees daylight, the institutional changes he proposes will have been tailored to fit the talents and ambitions of the Minister without Portfolio.

Prime Minister has pitifully few resources at his direct disposal to throw at an issue.

Though Downing St was condemned last week for spending £1.5 million more on staff than the £3.4m the Tories spent — creating a six-person Strategic Communications Unit and adding four extra members to the seven-strong Policy Unit — it is tiny by the standards of the White House or the Elysée Palace.

NLY a few peo-

Whether or not Mr. Mandelson inherits the ancient title of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, now held by the slightly fall guy, David Clark, or picks a moderniser's handle when he finally joins the cabinet, some time soon, it will be interpreted as a Blairite device to cut the over-mighty Treasury, down to size. There will be a grain of truth in that too, though the Treasury denies reports of wanting an internal think tank or policy unit of its own. Downing Street backs that denial.

But what is really at stake is a more deep-seated problem than the simmering tensions between Mr Brown and Mr Mandelson, let alone the chan-

ple have yet seen the report by Sir Richard, sent to Mr Blair around Easter and still being redrafted. But a few phrases from it are already entering the vocabulary of smart officials including "outcomes" and "delivery mechanisms".

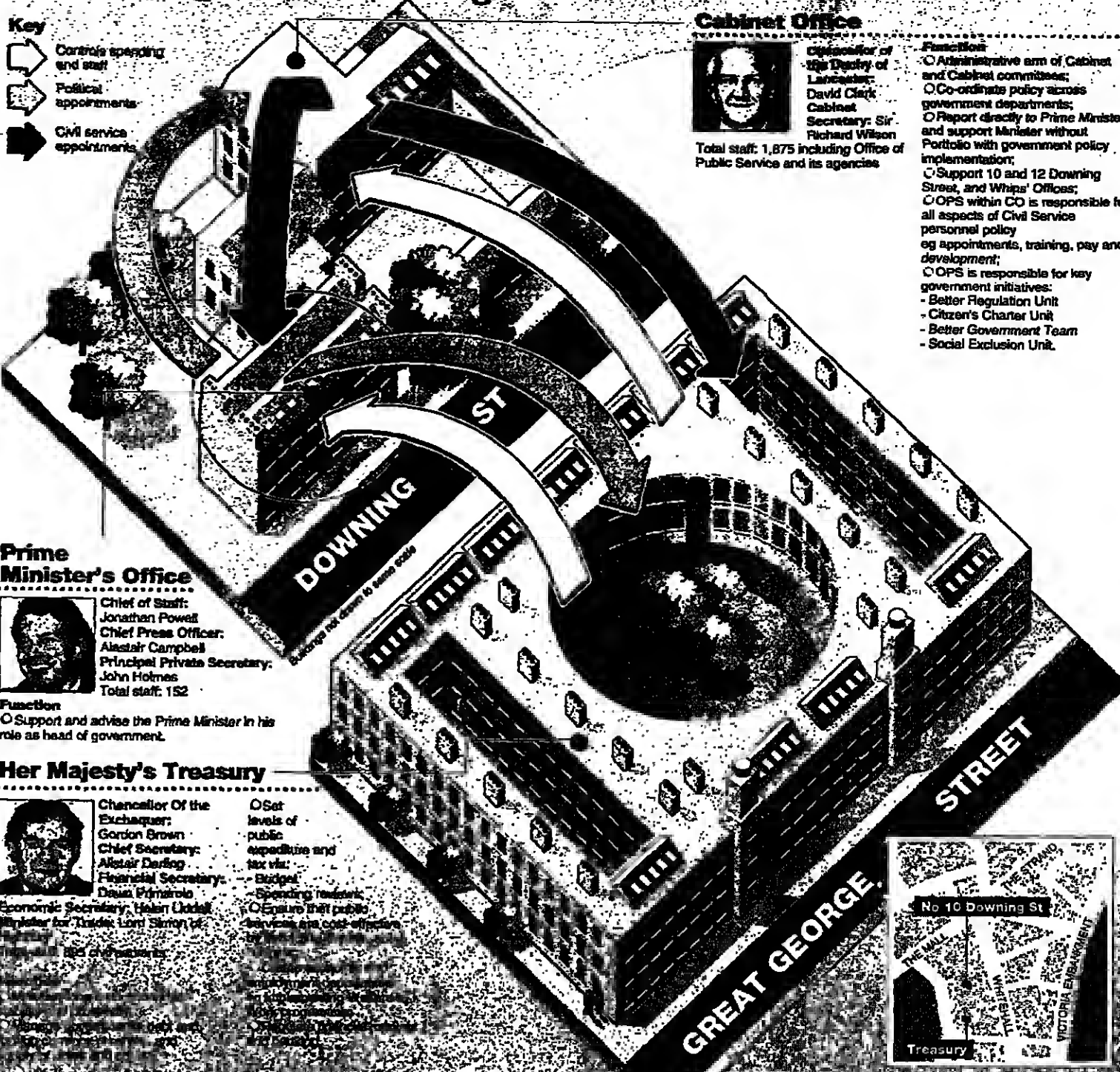
Mr Blair is famously not an ideologue, he is a problem solver. Outcomes (not "outputs", which is old speak) meant that New Labour's leader wants to measure his ministers' performance in terms of the amount of public money they can win, but by the results they achieve, be it in GCSE results or NHS waiting lists.

have been powerfully advised against it, not least by Whitehall permanent secretaries who do not want to lose power to the centre. In the British system the prime minister is meant to be the honest broker.

The Cabinet Secretariat, housed in the adjoining Cabinet Office (and linked by a maze of corridors, some Tudor in origin), serves the whole cabinet. It is not intended to be a policy player if Sir Richard had incorporated the secretariat into the Number 10 machine that would have aroused fresh charges of over-centralisation.

There has been plenty of that already. Civil servants were glad to welcome Labour

Thrashing it out: The big three



last spring after 18 years of increasingly lacklustre Tor
hule, but both sides have had
trouble adjusting to the
change. Ministers are impa
nent with the mandarin cu
ers, officials dislike heav
representational spin and th
filling-up of white papers
ference, transport etc) awa
clearance by Number 10.

lacked the power to enforce Action this day!

Insiders, who have seen the Wilson Report, hint that the re-jigged Cabinet Office (which also contains the rag-bag of civil service functions done by Dr Clark's Office of Public Service) may also include a new policy innovation unit "located at the centre

Ralph, the distinguished Marxist academic. "The great word will be 'horizontality,'" predicts one well-informed source. "We want to strengthen the centre, to build up a more strategic capacity," says an even better one. There will be no "Prime Minister's Office" but it will not be the only counter-weight.

opposition. So Mr Powell ended up with the White House title, Chief of Staff. As such he is the gatekeeper, the man past whom anyone who wants to see Britain's young Prime Minister must get — be they cabinet ministers, captains of industry or Liam Gallagher.

a beefing-up of Mr Blair's capacity to second-guess his mighty colleague on economic policy. If he does well, he is certain to get Mr Holmes's job when it falls vacant.

Though most people are too polite to say so, one of the problems facing the new government is not its lack of ideas or energy but its disorganisation.

SIR Richard's alternative option was to beef up the Cabinet Secretariat, but keep it separate from Downing Street. This ministerial group consists of bright (but officially neutral) officials seconded from other departments to service key policy areas — Europe, intelligence, defence, constitutional policy — and chair official committees.

It would try to achieve the hardest of government tasks—to look at long-term issues rather than be distracted by the day-to-day pressures. There are hints too of a revised, enhanced role for Sir Richard himself, possibly separating his functions as head of the home civil service from his job as Cabinet Secretary—serving that Thursday morning ritual when ministers pass through the front

AROUND the same time as Wilson arrived, a thirty-something ("he looks about 12") Treasury high-flyer called Jeremy Heywood joined the Prime Minister's private office as the private secretary in charge of economic affairs. He got a better desk than Moira Wallace, from whom he took over, closer to Power.

know in every office, informal relations matter too. Until last month Mr Powell and Mr Holmes shared an office off the ground-floor Cabinet Room at Number 10. Mr Heywood joined them. They only had to pass the coffin-shaped cabinet table (where John Major liked to work) to reach the little den where Mr Blair did his business—from a white sofa.

Whitehall gossip highlights two problems. Neither Mr Powell nor Mr Holmes is a Treasury man (Mr Holmes's predecessor,

Mr Blair, certainly Chancellor Brown, and others are not tickling people. They have already tinkered the system with over 100 reviews and task forces. Sir Richard, who is orderly, is charged with tidying things up.

Will a beefed-up Cabinet Office, with Mr Mandelson as enforcer-in-chief, deliver the better outcomes Mr Blair wants? On paper yes. But given New Labour's passion for presentational detail, for tweaking policies so they do not offend Middle England, for

It has been criticised for
 1. Not being for the lowest common
 2. denominator, for lacking
 3. strategic vision. Give it a
 4. stronger role to secure effective
 5. delivery of policy — plus
 6. strong political leadership —
 7. and more resources, and it
 8. might deliver Blair's desired
 9. results in the executive man-
 10. ner of a private sector com-
 11. pany. No more dithering over
 12. (a) the millennium bug
 13. problem where Dr Clark has

The key change is likely to be much closer co-operation — to create more synergy — between Sir Richard's politically-neutral policy specialists in the Cabinet Office Secretariat and the Downing Street Policy Unit, the informal think tank set up by Mrs Thatcher. It is full of young and clever policy wonks (all political appointees), who work to David Miliband, Blairite son of

The appointment makes him one of a handful of clever civil servants working for John Holmes, Mr Blair's principal private secretary. Mr Holmes got the job when Sir Richard's predecessor, Sir Robin Butler, told Mr Blair last May that he could not give such a sensitive politically-neutral post to Jonathan Powell, the diplomat brother of the Thatcherite Charles, who had joined the Blair team in

Alex Allen, was; they are diplomats. Mr. Holmes's hands have been full with Ulster, Iraq, intelligence matters, but there have been some signs of turf battles between the two men: both ending up going to Washington, flanking Mr Blair at his Oval Office session with President Bill Clinton.

Hence the importance of Mr Heywood's transfer, said to have been resisted by Gordon Brown. Clearly he represents

Graphless sources: Cabinet Office: Finding your way round Whitehall and beyond, 1998, <http://www.open.gov.uk/index/ogindex.htm#C>.
Graphless: Paddy Allen. Researcher: Catharine Freeman, Matthew Keating.
Michael White is the Guardian's political editor; Richard Norton-Taylor is a Whitehall watcher.

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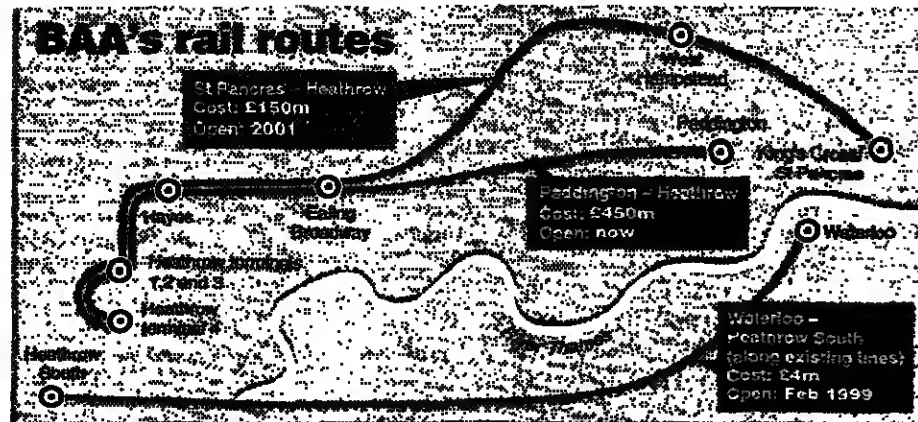
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BAA plans rail takeover



Airport owner finds platform for expansion

Keith Harper and Lisa Buckingham

B RITAIN'S highest airport owner, BAA, is developing secret plans to take over large sections of the railway network, it confirmed last night.

Paddington station in west London, which is already the home for BAA's £450 million Heathrow Express, opened last week by the Prime Minister, could become the hub for a network serving other parts of the country.

A senior BAA source said: "It is true that we are interested in expanding into other parts of the railway. But we are not going to be foolish. We intend proceeding cautiously but we are watching for any opening. It is a long-term plan and the price would have to be right."

Senior BAA executives made it clear that they think the opportunity for expansion exists, particularly as some rail operators may want to give up their franchise as government subsidies, which started at £2 billion last year,

gradually run down. Although BAA executives made it clear they have no intention of deserting the core airport management business, they are keen to diversify and want to help create a transport system focused on Heathrow.

The Heathrow Express belongs to BAA. It has been built entirely from BAA's own resources and is the first truly privatised railway to be built since privatisation. The company is charging passengers £10 for a 15-minute ride direct from Paddington to Heathrow.

The company aims to break even on the project by 2001, and to be well in profit two years after that. The four-times-a-hour service will be carrying six million passengers by the year 2000.

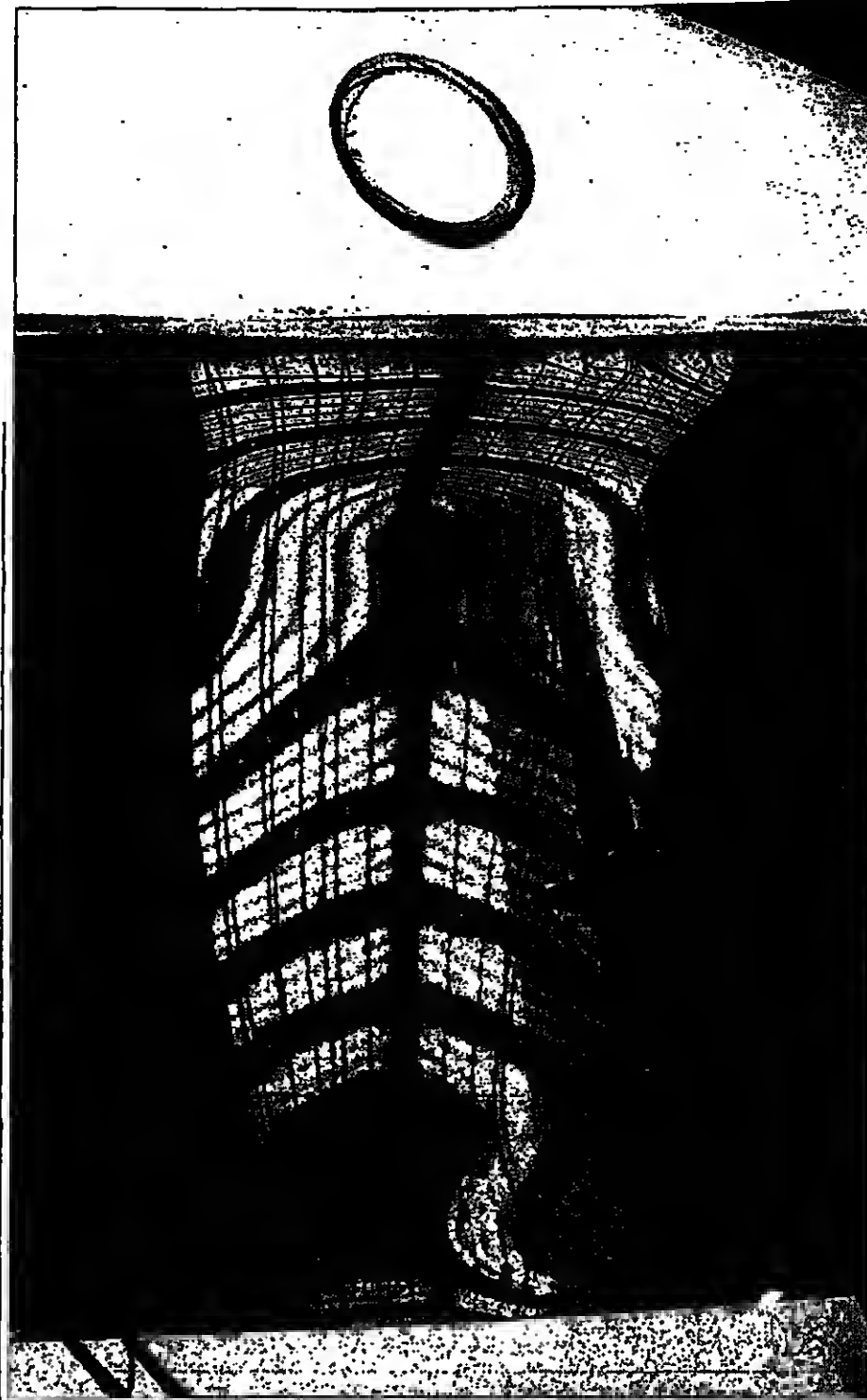
BAA's next move is to be developed by 2001 to be a £150 million project from St Pancras to Heathrow using similar trains. The service will take 35 minutes and will stop at West Hampstead, Ealing Broadway and Hayes, and will carry many of BAA's staff who travel daily from London to Heathrow. This

service is expected to carry three million passengers within one year of start-up. Before then, however, BAA will have linked up with South West Trains to run a service from Waterloo to a new station called Heathrow South. The station will be open next year and a bus link will carry passengers from the new station to the airport.

This is part of an ambitious vision to turn Britain's premier airport into the largest integrated transport hub in the country. British Airways has already announced plans to run trains from Heathrow to Birmingham and Manchester within five years and is interested in running Eurostar services from the station. Paddington is expected to be the centre for any future BAA expansion. It is the terminus for trains from South Wales and the West Country, operated by FirstGroup. This could make a starting point for any inroads into the passenger network, although BAA executives have so far refused to be specific.

BAA is believed to be keen to diversify as its main business continues to suffer from the downturn of Asian visitors and the loss of duty free business next year. It has been suggested the group might float its retail business, which it is currently recapitalising, in a move which could help fund future plans.

BAA is also building up its overseas operations and has just won a lucrative contract to run the retail and catering facilities at Newark airport, New York, matching its other US operations at Pittsburgh and Indianapolis.



BAA aims to break even on its Heathrow Express by the year 2001, and to be in profit two years later as it plans a transport system focused on the airport. PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN ANGLIS

Notebook

Rothschild bats for independents

Alex Brummer

THE notion that it is all over for the independent financial houses is discredited by the financial results from Rothschild Continuation — the holding firm for the main financial interests of the Rothschild network.

Despite the rise of the super investment bank like Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and Goldman Sachs, the independents are doing fine. In the case of Rothschild UK, operating profits were up sharply, and overall the company reported after tax profits up 40 per cent at 155 million Swiss francs (£22.9 million).

Much of the zip in the Rothschild results comes from merger and acquisition activity. Its alliance with ABN Amro, one of the more aggressive of the Continental banks, has proved extremely valuable. In some respects it demonstrates that commercial banks do not necessarily need ownership — like Deutsche Bank of Morgan Grenfell — to establish themselves as a global presence in the corporate finance area. As well as advising on some key UK deals, Rothschild was deeply involved in privatisations from Denmark to Latin America — a legacy of its Thatcherite deals.

As Lazards, Robert Fleming and Schroders have found, you do not have to be "bulge bracket" to attract high quality clients. Nevertheless, there are pitfalls ahead. The second line investment banks must cope with rising IT and staff costs; at Rothschild administrative expenses climbed by 23 per cent in the last year. Moreover, Rothschild is still a relative midget in the fund management business. In contrast to rivals like Schroders, which has been putting on assets under management at a healthy clip in both the professional and retail markets.

As always with family business, there is also the question of succession. The putative successor to Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, Anselmi, committed suicide in a Paris hotel room in 1996. The assumption is that the head of the French bank, Baron David de Rothschild, will eventually succeed in London. Such are the mysteries which still cloud the house's future.

Power games

DOGGED determination by Ed Wallis to acquire a regional electricity company appears finally to have paid off with PowerGen's purchase of East Midlands for £1.9 billion.

Wallis has long recognised that simply being a generator is an increasingly difficult business as the regional companies develop their generating capacity, the government

becomes increasingly involved in fixing the generation market and relatively new players in the market, like the Energy Group, make an impact.

Although East Midlands, of itself may not seem a particularly enticing franchise, its purchase brings with it a substantial network, through which PowerGen can distribute its own power, but also deliver other utility services. Scottish Power, which has the privatisation kick-off had generation and distribution capacity, has demonstrated how to bolt on new businesses to the network from telecoms and the internet, to water.

Usually, vertical transactions can lead to difficulty with the regulator. But PowerGen clearly believes it has the answer to this problem with its promise to dispose of whatever coal generating capacity it considers inappropriate. This, it says, will be enough to avoid a MMC inquiry; it would be hard to believe that it would have gone ahead had it not received prior approval.

As for the Americans, the US market has much more place than they expected. The combination of Gordon Brown's windfall tax, which creamed off \$5 billion from the industry, and a toughened regulatory and tax environment has made British

investors at a time when the US home market has been opening up. Dominion is the first to retreat, carrying a smallish profit with it. Others may follow.

Asian backwash

A YEAR after the crisis in emerging markets started in Thailand, the global authorities have still failed to put the genie back in the bottle.

The latest victim is South Africa where the rand is in freefall, after the downward path seen in the Asian currency crisis. The IMF is struggling to come up with a lifeline, which many analysts believe will have to be between \$10 billion and \$15 billion to stabilise the rand.

In South Africa the main concern is that the central bank might be tempted to re-impose exchange controls to hold the rand's value. Although freedom of capital has made the currencies of emerging market economies vulnerable to speculative attack, recent experience from Malaysia suggests that as soon as governments seek to impose

rules on capital markets, the tension increases. The economies which have best survived the assault are those which have anticipated attack by tightening domestic policy, rather than waiting to be targeted.

However, with so much of the global economy now under siege, it is unclear how long these countries and the European and North American fortresses can remain unbreached.

Ministers investing to keep Britain in lead on cloning

Dan Atkinson

THE Government is spending more than half a million pounds to keep Britain in the lead on controversial cloning technology.

A grant of £500,000 has been made to PPL Therapeutics, the company that jointly carried out the "Dolly" sheep-cloning experiment, which sparked furious debate worldwide when unveiled in February last year.

PPL also has been granted worldwide rights to exploit key aspects of the cloning technology it has developed in partnership with the state-sponsored Roslin Institute in Edinburgh. The company plans to use cloning techniques to bring drugs to market covering cystic fibrosis, haemophilia B, burns and nutritional deficiencies.

The drive to ensure Britain remains a world leader in cloning technology is part of a broader strategy to attract investment and create jobs in the biotechnology sector.

The drive to ensure Britain remains a world leader in cloning technology is part of a broader strategy to attract investment and create jobs in the biotechnology sector.

Rand falls victim to Asian contagion

David Beresford in Johannesburg and Larry Elliott

SOUTH AFRICA became the latest country to be caught up in the Asian contagion yesterday as a wave of speculation on the foreign exchanges sent the rand plunging to a record low against the US dollar and the pound.

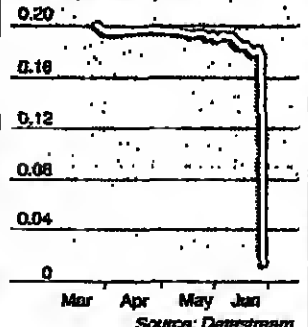
With the impact of the year-old crisis being felt in Pakistan, New Zealand and South Korea as well as South Africa, dealers continued to seek out safe havens for their money, spurring the emerging markets of Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

In Karachi, the Pakistani rupee came under renewed attack as traders — already unsettled by the government's policy of nuclear testing — feared that Saturday's devaluation might be followed by another reduction in the value of the currency.

New Zealand announced spending cuts to balance a budget ravaged by recession and South Korea — one of the first countries to be affected by the financial crisis — reported that industrial output had fallen by 11 per cent in May, following a similar reduction in April.

In South Africa, the authorities watched helplessly as the currency collapsed made a nonsense of the deter-

South African Rand: Exchange rate to £US



minedly conservative fiscal approach of Nelson Mandela's government, stoking up union pressure for a more expansionary economic policy.

After losing 6 per cent of its value last Friday, the rand fell by a further 5 per cent yesterday to crash through the psychological barriers of R6 to the dollar and R10 to the pound.

The governor of the South African Reserve Bank, Chris Stals, blamed the crisis on an "amush" by an unidentified US hedge fund which started offloading the rand in New York after the South African market had closed. He attributed the currency's vulnerability to prejudice against emerging markets due to the Asian economic crisis.

South Africa's vulnerability

to the speculative attack bore all the hallmarks of a similar dumping of the Russian rouble on the foreign exchanges last month.

There were confused reports over the weekend that the Federal Reserve Bank and the Bank of England had tried to shore up the rand. The reports appear to have added to the loss of confidence, being taken as an indication that the South African government was incapable of defending its currency.

With the rand reaching fresh lows in frenetic trading yesterday morning, the Reserve Bank hurriedly issued assurances that it does not intend re-introducing exchange controls, fearing that currency rumours were beginning to circulate could trigger a wholesale exodus by foreign investors.

Prime Minister Mandela's prime lending rate to a punitive 22.25 per cent — the highest level in a decade. The currency crisis comes at a particularly unfortunate time for the South African government which is facing growing criticism of "Growth" — its "growth, employment and redistribution" policy. The major union federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), which is in political alliance with the ANC, has been threatening mass action to protest at the failure of Growth to better the lot of blacks.

Nikkei shrugs off corporate gloom

THE need for urgent action to halt the slide of the world's second-largest economy was underlined yesterday by a Japanese Central Bank survey showing that confidence has reached its lowest point in nearly four years, writes Jonathan Watts in Tokyo.

The closely watched "tankan" quarterly poll of corporate sentiment revealed deep pessimism among companies struggling to cope with a credit crunch, rising inventories and falling demand. Prospects of a slight recovery in September and some action on the banking crisis were the only glimmers of hope.

Among major manufacturers the percentage of pessimists exceeded that of optimists by 38 points, the most gloomy outlook since the autumn of 1994. Most complained of idle production lines, excess employees and shrinking profits.

Smaller manufacturers painted an even bleaker picture, with those expecting business conditions to deteriorate now at a level

not seen since the oil crisis of 1975. Among small and medium-sized non-manufacturers, confidence was at its lowest point since records began.

Manufacturers forecast a 1.4 per cent decline in pre-tax profits. In response to the harsh climate companies expected to cut investment by 8.7 per cent during the current fiscal year.

Data released yesterday justified the gloom. In May, sales at department stores and supermarkets declined by 0.9 per cent for the 13th year-on-year fall in 14 months. Wholesale turnover dropped by 6.8 per cent. Japanese firms were forced to cut production last month by 2 per cent.

This has exacerbated the rise in unemployment. Analysts expect the latest jobless figures, out tomorrow, to show a new post-war high of 4.2 per cent.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange took the latest data in its stride, with the Nikkei rising 155 points, 1 per cent. The yen also pulled back some of the ground it had lost earlier in the day

to reach 142 to the dollar. The bullish sentiment is based on expectations of an improved "tankan" in the autumn, when the effects of the nation's highest-ever stimulus package, worth 16 trillion yen (£26 billion), begin to be felt.

There was also relief that the government is taking action to deal with the ailing banking system, creaking under the weight of 77 trillion yen (£12.8 billion) in bad loans. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party will unveil plans on Thursday to establish one or more "bridging banks" to smooth the process of the banking sector shake-out by liquidating non-performing loans and ensuring a steady flow of capital to healthy borrowers.

Such banks are expected to play a prominent role in the planned merger of the Long Term Credit Bank of Japan with Sumitomo Trust and in the liquidation of other banks.

In a sign that doubts still remain over the government's handling of the crisis, the credit ratings agency Fitch IBCA has put the short-term ratings of Sumitomo on alert for a possible downgrade on concern that a merger may weaken its already shaky position. The share price of Sumitomo dropped 5 per cent yesterday.

Pitcher package lights new top pay row

Lisa Buckingham and Graham Hind

THE controversy over boardroom greed in the privatised utility companies will intensify today following the disclosure that Sir Desmond Pitcher has left United Utilities with nearly £500,000.

The abrasive executive who was once labelled the "king of the fat cats" and who was ousted as chairman after a boardroom showdown, was given a pay off of £443,630 as well as remuneration of

£443,630 for the year to March. The figures are revealed in the company's annual report delivered to shareholders yesterday. Although the payment is likely to reignite concerns about the level of remuneration in the utility companies, Sir Desmond appears to have accepted less than his contractual entitlement.

Despite hest boardroom practice which argues for one-year contracts, Sir Desmond was given a two-year package by United Utilities and that could have boosted his total payments to more than £1.3 million. But

the annual report said that the amount paid was reduced because the company had paid up promptly.

Disclosure of Sir Desmond's pay-off coupled with a 54 per cent rise to £410,800 in total remuneration for Derek Green, the chief executive, coincided with the publication of large increases in the bonuses of some directors at other high profile groups, Sir Desmond's pay-off was a 22 per cent rise in total remuneration to £292,700 in the year to March.

Many of the salaries and bonus awards at utility companies do, however, reflect attempts to bring in higher

calibre managements. And, after the furore about executive share options, windfalls which forced privatisation, most of the remuneration schemes have been approved by shareholders.

The batch of annual reports now emerging from the privatised companies will provide the first real test of how Tony Blair's government will attempt to tackle the issue of executive pay. So far, ministers have simply called on senior directors to set an example to the wider workforce where pay rises are currently running at about 5 per cent.

The rises follow the emergence at the weekend of large bonuses for the board of Yorkshire Water, about which the Chancellor Gordon Brown let it be known he was furious.

There have been suggestions that the Government will attempt to put pressure on shareholders to refuse to sanction very generous remuneration schemes or that it will try to enlist the support of utility regulators to curb boardroom greed.

Many of the salaries and bonus awards at utility companies do, however, reflect attempts to bring in higher



Pitcher... abrasive

TOURIST RATES — BANK GILLS

Australia 2.61	Germany 2.84	Malaysia 6.74	Singapore 2.75
Austria 2.01	Greece 4.04	South Africa 8.00	Spain 16.50
Belgium 60.44	Hong Kong 12.82	Sweden 12.99	Switzerland 2.02
Canada 2.37	India 70.92	Taiwan 42.90	USA 1.61
Cyprus 0.89	Ireland 1.35	Thailand 5.90	
Denmark 11.23	Israel 1.11	Turkey 4.33	
Finland 5.95	Italy 2.97		
France 9.11			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shilling and dollar)



World weary

Edwards and co threatened by hectic schedule

About Tim

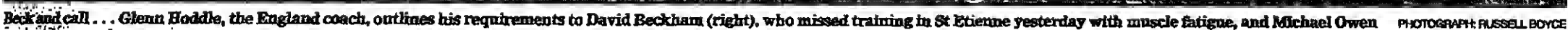
Henman silences doubters with win over Rafter

20

Tuesday June 30 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk/worldcup

The Guardian Sport

France 98



England seek a hand from God

David Lacey in St Etienne believes Michael Owen's pace can confound Argentina

ER hope and fears of a good many years will rest with Glenn Hoddle's England team in the Geoffroy Guichard stadium here tonight. Beating Argentina would not merely take England to the quarter-finals of the tournament, it would convince the doubters that under Hoddle the nation still has a side to be taken seriously as putative winners of a major tournament.

In the semi-finals of the 1996 European Championship, at the end of Terry Venables' brief reign as coach, the width of a post denied Darren Anderton the golden goal which would have taken England to the final. Germany's expense. Almost inevitably the Germans won the penalty shoot-out, much as

they had done in Turin in the 1990 World Cup semi-finals. English football can ill afford another such anticlimax so soon. The game's biggest boom yet was born out of Paul Gascoigne's tears in Italia 90. An early departure now, especially at the hands of England's supreme bêtes noires, would deal the English game a severe blow, and never mind the large number of Premier-

Germany may still be stuck in England's craw but at least this time the teams cannot meet until the final. Tonight is Hoddle's opportunity to purge the nation's consciousness of older, badder memories of things Argentinian. It really is time to consign the Hand of God to history.

At the heart of England's

tain than trying to cross the Andes. Seldom has more been asked of Tony Adams and those whose job it is to give him support. The idea of Sol Campbell being drawn out to the left flank, leaving Adams unprotected in the middle, does not bear thinking about.

Hodde is setting a lot of store by the confidence his team took not only from beating Colombia 2-0 but creating

that against. Other sides have better players and it might be difficult to go at them. But if you sit back against anybody it becomes very hard to pick up the pace of the game at a later stage."

The longer this evening's game goes without a goal the more chance there will be of a stalemate followed by sudden-death extra-time and, if necessary, a penalty shoot-out.

Either conclusion would be a cruel denouement for the losers but, after what happened


land would be better able to handle it.

Hodde is unlikely to win the World Cup, whatever happens here tonight. But if his team stop Argentina winning at his stock will soar and the nation will once more be agog with anticipation. And the Argentines are due a bad day at the office.

GOALS (probable): Seaman; G Neville, Adams, Campbell; Antares, Icc. Beckham, L. Bax; Scholze; Shearer. Owen.

ARGENTINA (probable): Roe; Vivas, Linares, Chelst, Almeida, Zarosi, Veron, Domingo, Greer, Ballester, Lopez.

England's World Cup meetings with Argentina



in their defeat by General de Gaulle. The young men were the strongest element in the fascist movement.

1938
General T. G. Thompson & Robert Staughton Lyndon City Mayor

Robert Lyndon's illustrious father, Henry, had played a major role in Hitler's disarming of the Reichstag. He was the only man in the world who had been the personal friend of the German Führer. He in 1938 was the burning spirit behind the anti-Nazi movement in the United States.

1940
General T. G. Thompson & Robert Staughton Lyndon City Mayor

General T. G. Thompson & Robert Staughton Lyndon City Mayor

For England, pace will be just as important tonight. Daniel Passarella's defence has not conceded a goal in the tournament, but Michael Owen could be their nemesis. Alan Shearer, moreover, is overdue a second goal in the tournament and never was there a better time for Anderton to complete his international comeback with the sort of goal he scored against Colombia in Lens last Friday.

The strength of that England performance looks like persuading Hoddle to field an unchanged side. Gareth Southgate, though recovered

This is Hoddle's opportunity to purge a nation's memories. It is

« On the
Paris

terraces»

- June '98

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GAE →
Part of the
in the
the

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person, likely a woman, seen from behind. She is wearing a short-sleeved shirt with a bold, dark pattern and dark shorts. Her arms are slightly out to her sides. The background is a dark, heavily textured surface, possibly a wall or a large piece of fabric, with a grainy, almost abstract quality. The lighting is dramatic, creating deep shadows and bright highlights on the person's clothing and the background.

David Beckham, rested yesterday with muscle fatigue, will stay in midfield.

Modestly, Argentina will be a vastly different proposition to the careless, casual Colombians. Beckham, whose successful switch to central midfield was enhanced by the team's amount of possession, will find life rather more fraught against Matias Almeyda, Javier Zanetti and Juan Veron.

Paul Scholes will find himself closely tracked down when he tries to move into scoring positions. At east, Owen is unlikely to be introduced to NestorSENSATION - still suffering from a knee injury - the hard way.

Argentina are clear favourites. How could it be otherwise, given their World Cup success and the present coach, Marcelo Bielsa, who has the present side. Gabriel Batistuta is one of the modern game's outstanding finishers and in the skill and stealth of Lionel Messi, he has the perfect player for England, should they be asked to play.

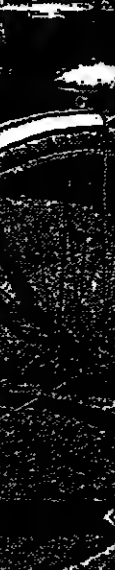
On the other hand, it will be less a question of sealing a mount-

ing the collective aggression to win the ball back and did it very well against Colombia. Whether we can do the same against Argentina only the game will show. Certainly, we won't have to stop 10 minutes. It's an impossibility.

"I think Argentina are a disciplined side. Passarella has seen where they can improve, as he said, and he has disciplined the players and brought them up the way he wants."

For England to have the best chance of beating the South Americans, they need the most likely alternatives to Brazil as World Cup winners this time. Hoddie's team must not allow Argentina to dictate the shape and tempo of the match. Hoddie believes that he way the team began against Colombia is the best way to go about things tonight.

From the first minute we were at Colombia," the England captain said, "and there was no turning back. But they were ideal opponents to do



«The best lo

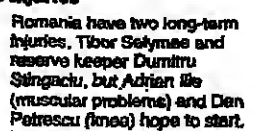


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DAY 21



Romania v Croatia
Venue Parc Lescure, Bordeaux
Kick-off 3.30pm BST
Referee Javier Castell (Argentina)
Previous meeting
 1990 Romania 1-0 Croatia



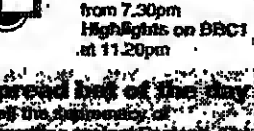
**Live on BBC1
from 3.15pm
Live on Eurosport
from 3.20pm**



Argentina v England
Venne: Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, St Etienne
Referee: G. Durrant
Referee: Kim Nielson



Injuries
Argentina's defender Roberto Sensi is doubtful (high strain).



Matches are knock-out and the golden goal rule will apply. Extra-time is required. Penalty kicks will decide the result if no goals are scored in 30 minutes of extra-time.

«On the terraces»

Paris - June '98

This is Hoddle's opportunity to purge a nation's memories. It is time to consign the Harid of God to history

the collective aggression to win the ball and did it very well against Colombia. Whether we can do the same against Argentina only the game will show. Certainly we have to play 90 minutes. It's an impossibility."

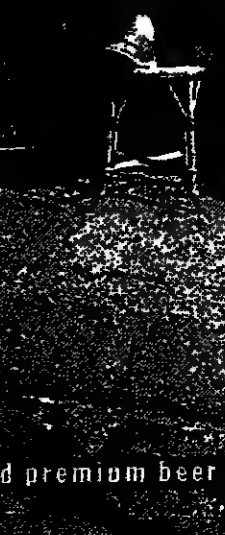
"I think Argentina are a disciplined side. Passarella has seen where they can be improved as a team, he's disciplined the players and brought them up the way he wants."

For England to have the chance of beating the South American side, the most likely alternatives to Brazil as Cup winners this time, Hoddle's team must not allow Argentina to dictate the shape and tempo of the game. He believes that the way the team began against Colombia is the best way to go about things tonight.

From the first minute we have to be in Colombia," the England captain said, "and there was no turning back. But they were ideal opponents to do



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Wimbledon 98



Worry-beads... a concerned Serena Williams receives attention to her leg before retiring hurt against Virginia Ruano-Pascual, who plays Venus Williams, right, today in the fourth round



PHOTOGRAPHS: MIKE STEPHENS/ANSA NEDERHANS

Serena can help sister avoid the slip-ups

Richard Jago on how family ties may break the nerve of a confident Spaniard

Venus and Serena Williams will be trading tips today, not top-spin. Instead of becoming the first siblings for 32 years to compete against each other at Wimbledon, Serena will be helping her elder sister to beat the Spaniard Virginia Ruano-Pascual.

Her decision to withdraw from the tournament after being injured yesterday after she had lost the first set 7-5. With her confidence about moving safely on the slick grass undermined, she was 4-1 down in the second, apparently so preoccupied with her strapped left calf that she forgot to shake hands with her rival.

even though she had at no time appeared to be severely hindered by the muscle strain. It is, after all, only two weeks since the 16-year-old competed for the first time on this most unpredictable and unsettling of surfaces.

The movements required to cope with lower, more varied bounces and swirling trajectories were so unfamiliar that Serena ended the week at Eastbourne like a survivor from the Somme, with an ankle lapped, a thigh bandaged and her expression war-

wounded. "I don't like falling," the heavily built American admitted then. Yesterday she phrased it differently: "It was just a little of those slipping blues," she said.

Venus, having endured a two-hour rain delay in the middle of her third-round match against her fellow American Chanda Rubin before winning 6-3, 6-4, talked of her relationship with Serena and was keen to underline that "we are two separate people".

There are signs too that Novotna, so often branded a choker, has acquired an im-

proved equilibrium. "I woke up and after the first rain delay I suddenly got so tired," she said. "I was just not feeling pretty well, and I guess I was getting a little depressed about it."

Yesterday's results

Men's Singles

Holder: P Sampras (US, 1)

Third round

(Singles in brackets)
T. Muster (AUT) 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 P. Sampras (US, 1)
T. Enqvist (SWE) 6-3, 7-5, 6-3 S. Agnisi (ITA)
P. R. Schuett (GER) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)

Fourth round

T. Muster (AUT) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)

Men's Doubles

First round

J. Gimelstorp (AUS) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)
J. Bjornik (SWE) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)

Second round

H. Kunitz (AUS) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)
H. Kunitz (AUS) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)

Women's Singles

Holder: M Hingis (Switz)

Third round

V. Ruano-Pascual (ESP) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)
V. Ruano-Pascual (ESP) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)

Fourth round

V. Ruano-Pascual (ESP) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)

Women's Doubles

First round

J. Gimelstorp (AUS) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)
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Second round

H. Kunitz (AUS) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)
H. Kunitz (AUS) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 P. Sampras (US, 1)

Sampras still smiling after three days in the locker-room

IT TOOK Pete Sampras three days to heat the world No. 17 Thomas Enqvist, give or take the odd rain break since Friday, but the champion has yet to drop a set at Wimbledon 98 and played the percentages yesterday to take both the sets he needed on tie-breaks.

Centre Court saw the world No. 1 close out Sweden's Davis Cup stalwart 6-3, 7-5, 7-5 to move into the fourth round.

Sampras now faces the 20-year-old Frenchman Sébastien Grosjean, a surprise straight-sets winner over the No. 16 seed, the Spanish clay-court exponent Félix Mantilla.

"It was a long, long weekend," said the American with four Wimbledon singles triumphs and 10 Grand Slam titles in all, though none since this time last year. "The rhythm is there and I'm serving well and that is really the key to playing well on grass."

And what does one do in the SW19 rain? "You just hang out in the locker-room," Sampras replied with a suspension of irony. "It is an emotional roller-coaster."

"You get up for playing and you come off and you have a 15-minute delay. You come back, play a game, you have yesterday off, which was kind of bizarre. But it's part of Wimbledon. It's part of the aura about this place."

The Dutchman Richard Krajicek also took the tie-break route into the fourth round with a 6-4, 7-6, 7-6 win over Nicolas Pietrangeli, the 20-year-old German No. 1.

Todd beat Todd as half of the Two Woodies left the singles, the American Martin outstaying the Australian Woodbridge 6-4, 4-6, 7-6, 6-4. But it was business as usual in the unusually tree-lined courts when Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde — the ginger-haired one — began the defence of their title by beating the Spaniards Jordi Burillo and Tomas Carbonell 6-1, 6-4.



Pistol Pete primed... Sampras on his way to his straight-sets win yesterday

FIONA HANSON

Athletics

Men run into busy summer

Duncan Mackay on the difficult choices for those who retained the European Cup

BITAIN'S male athletes further complicated an already hectic summer by retaining the European Cup in St Petersburg at the weekend and qualifying for the World Cup final in Johannesburg in September.

The global event is sandwiched between the European Championships in Budapest and the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, leaving athletes such as Colin Jackson and Jonathan Edwards facing the prospect of clocking up thousands of air miles as they chase glory on three continents within the space of a month.

Max Jones, the performance director, was yesterday making plans to ensure Britain fields their strongest team for Johannesburg even though the Commonwealth Games begin three days after the World Cup ends.

"We know it could be a problem for athletes who want to go to both events," said Jones. "We will leave it up to individuals. There

will be no three-line whip saying they have to go to the World Cup."

"Athletes will have different opinions about what is more important to their careers. If they choose to do both we will do all we can to help them."

"The guys in the explosive events are likely to suffer less than the endurance athletes; most concern will be there. We will look into arranging a training venue for those who want to go on from the European Championships to prepare for the World Cup and Commonwealth Games."

A major attraction for Britain's athletes will be the carrot of £2.11 million in prize-money; it is the first World Cup to offer financial rewards. The winner of each event will receive \$50,000 (£30,000) and the silver and bronze medalists will collect \$20,000 (£12,000) and \$10,000 (£6,000).

Jones has worked in difficult conditions since taking over from Malcolm Arnold as chief coach after the

British Athletic Federation declared itself insolvent last October.

"It's like a phoenix rising from the flames," he said. "This sort of thing will attract youngsters to the sport; they will see we are successful. We want to win the World Cup and it is possible."

The meeting was a personal triumph for Colin Jackson, who was named Male Athlete of the Year after winning the 110 metres hurdles and finishing third in the 100m. He plans to add a third string to his repertoire when he makes his debut in the long jump in Linz, Austria, on Sunday. The Welshman hopes to break Lynn Davies' UK record of 8.23m, set 30 years ago today. "I know I've got the speed to do it," he said.

Senia O'Sullivan took more than eight seconds off the 13-year-old world record for two miles with a time of 19.58sec in Cork. The Irishwoman's 64sec final lap on Sunday helped the American Amy Rudolph and Kathy Butler of Canada to also beat the UK mark of 9:28.15, set by the American Lynn Jennings.

Motor Racing

Suspicious Dennis hints at conspiracy to help Ferrari

Alan Henry

THE conspiracy theorists had a field day after Sunday's French Grand Prix, advancing the notion that the reason Ferrari had trounced McLaren-Mercedes was that officialdom somehow connived with the Italian team to abort the race's first start.

"Sometimes the playing field doesn't seem level, and this is one of those times," said Ron Dennis, McLaren's managing director, after Eddie Irvine pushed his best placed car, driven by Mika Hakkinen, into third place.

The suggestion that the starter decided to give Ferrari a second chance after Hakkinen beat Schumacher off the line at the first attempt may be regarded by outsiders as evidence that acute paranoia is alive and well within the grand prix community.

Since Schumacher was let off with a slapped wrist for attempting to ram Jacques Villeneuve off the circuit in last year's championship decider in Spain an air of unease has pervaded the paddocks over what many regard as the partiality of FIA, the sport's governing body, towards the Italian team.

None of this alters the fact that the outcome proved that Ferrari are now established as consistent and formidable Formula One operators. More over their success received the personal praise of the company's high-profile president Luca di Montezemolo, who also confirmed that the sporting director Jean Todt has renewed his contract until the end of the 2001 season.

Todt's decision to remain at Ferrari will provide a level of management stability previously undreamt of within the most famous grand prix team. It is also likely to be a major factor in tempting Schumacher to sign a further long-term contract beyond the 1999 season.

"This is a dream result," Todt said after Sunday's race. "Schumacher and Irvine had an incredible race and Eddie did a great job to keep the McLaren behind him."

However, McLaren believe privately that only technical unreliability stands between them and the world championship. Certainly David Coulthard has to believe so, after refuelling problems meant a dismal sixth place. For their part, Schumacher and Irvine have a more clear-cut view; they believe they have the McLarens on the run.

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Results

Football

Wales
Wales 1-0 England (Aberystwyth)
Wales 1-0 England (Aberystwyth)

Rugby League

Wales
Wales 1-0 England (Aberystwyth)
Wales 1-0 England (Aberystwyth)

Golf

Wales
Wales 1-0 England (Aberystwyth)
Wales 1-0 England (Aberystwyth)

Hockey

Wales
Wales 1-0 England (Aberystwyth)
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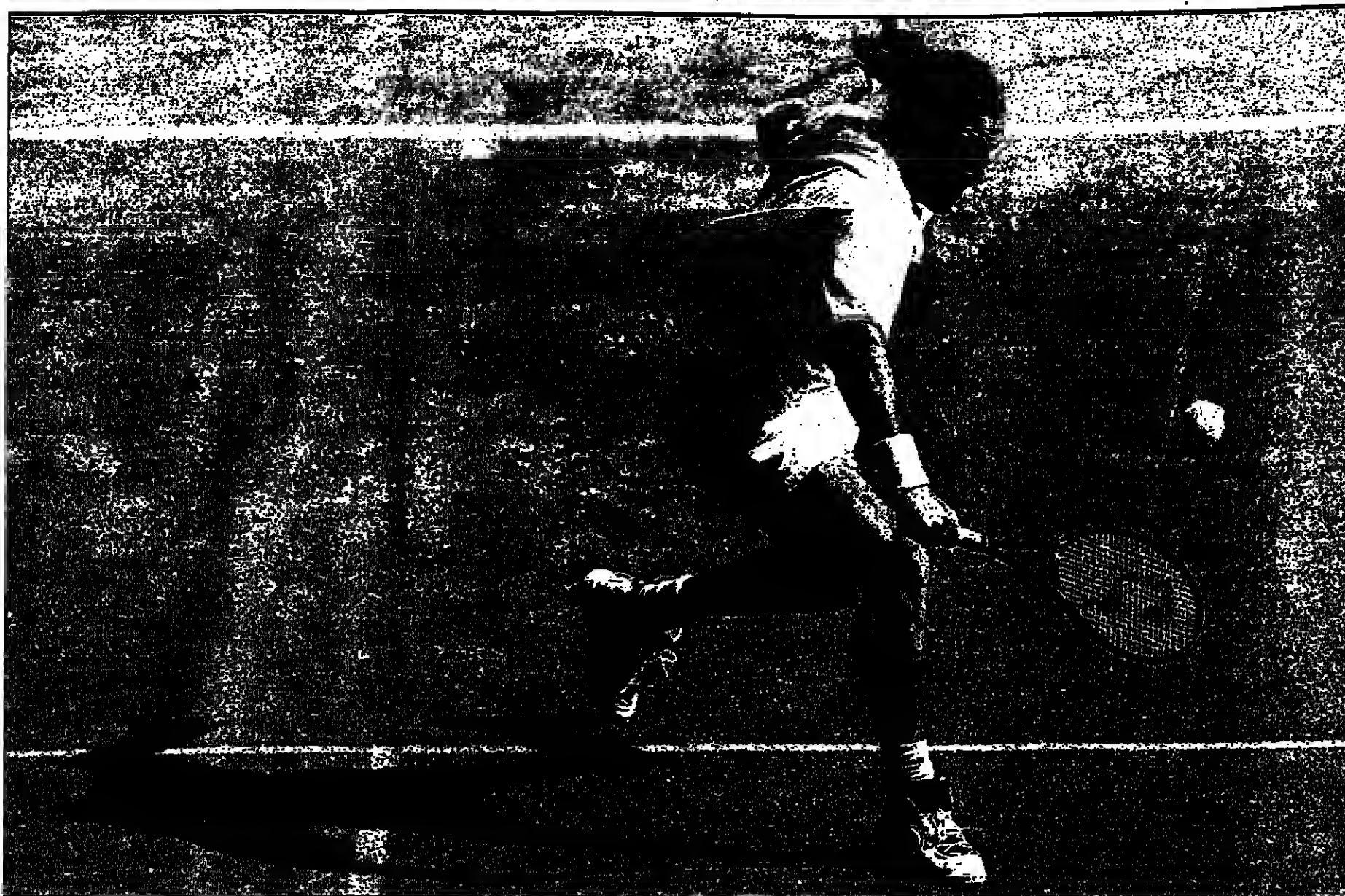
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Wimbledon 98



Rafter at sea... the Australian serve-and-volley specialist attempts a backhand as muscle niggles and a persistent Englishman take their toll yesterday

Henman's you-beaut day

Stephen Bierley sees the hope of England earn a quarter-final with a good-looking win over the Australian US Open champion

TIM HENMAN began his fourth-round match against Australia's Pat Rafter in such dazzling light yesterday that it seemed Wimbledon, a place of damp and gloom for much of the time since these Championships began, had been transported by the Earls Court mob to Melbourne.

"Come on Pat, mate," came the loud cry, reinforcing the somewhat surreal feeling as high summer suddenly and briefly returned to south-east London. But this was not to

be the start of a "beaut" afternoon for Rafter. Henman began to dart around like a man released from a very dark place, and for the third successive year reached the quarter-finals, winning 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2.

"I wouldn't say I feel any different to any other years, but maybe the pressure is off a little because of the World Cup," said Henman, who opened up brilliantly against the US Open champion.

So tomorrow he is due to play Petr Korda of the Czech Republic for a place in the

semi-finals, although this match may be in some doubt. Korda defeated John van Lottum of Holland 6-3, 6-4, 7-6, but fell heavily just before the third-set tie-break, injuring his left ankle. He was limping badly as his match finished and will receive treatment today in an effort to be ready.

The first service is the key to Henman's game and rarely can he have begun a big match serving with such consistency. There is no doubt he fancied his chances against Rafter, whose own strict serve-and-volley game meant

Henman had few variations to worry about and could go for his passes with an extra sense of freedom.

Centre Court was full but initially the atmosphere was a touch subdued, probably because the majority of those present were certain Henman was going to win come what may. After all, he had done it twice before, hadn't he?

There are many for whom tennis and Wimbledon are synonymous, so the fact that Rafter had won some strange tournament at Flushing Meadows, and was seeded sixth, barely impinged on their patriotic thoughts.

Henman knew he needed to play far better than in his three matches of the first

week when his form had been decidedly patchy. But from the moment his first serve, a grass-crunching ace, fizzed past Rafter's flailing glove, it was obvious that the British No. 2 was cocooned in concentration.

Neither Rafter nor Henman gave any hint of fissures in their game. If anything Rafter appeared a touch more inventive when rallies developed, but there was nothing in it until the combination of a double fault and a couple of wonderful shots by Henman saw the Australian drop his serve, thereby relinquishing the opening set.

Early in the second Rafter tapped his head with his racket as if to remind himself that he was a Grand Slam champion and that champions dig themselves out of holes with greater alacrity than ordinary men.

However, it was Henman who had wrapped a champion's cloak around his shoulders, and an exquisite acutely angled pass saw him break the Australian again. At 5-4 Henman served for the second set and then — and only then — his form dramatically deserted him.

A double fault sent a groan rumbling around the court

like distant thunder; a second was greeted with disbelief, leaving Rafter to thump away a forehand winner off a poor Henman second serve to square the set.

The eventual tie-break was won 7-3 by Rafter with some ease. His own shots were now beginning to flow, whereas Henman was beginning to fret. Earlier he had pointed into the phalanx of photographers, saying: "Something was making a real cracking sort of sound." Perhaps it was his own nerve-ends.

It was vital that Henman began the third set resolutely, which he duly did. Having held his initial serve he immediately broke Rafter to love, with the Australian giving the first indications that he might be having trouble with his fitness.

Rafter is a fighter who never runs away or gives up in times of trouble but he lost the third set, needed treatment on his back at the start of the fourth and, as his serve slowed noticeably, Henman took complete control.

"It was one of my best wins," said Henman. "If not the best."

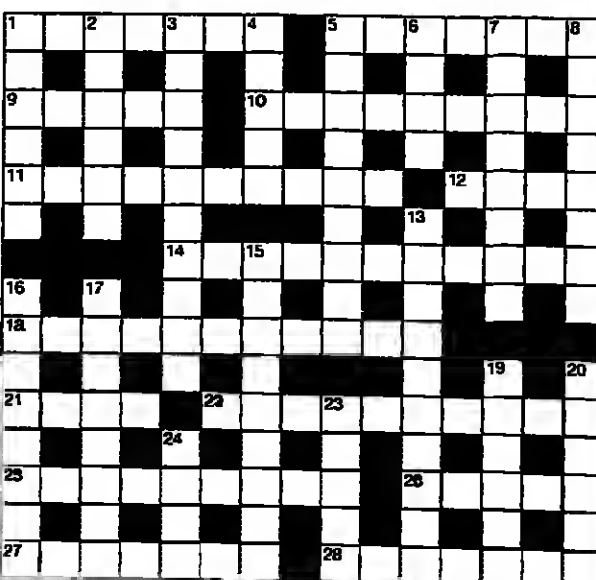
Reports and results, pages 18 and 19

Like distant thunder; a second was greeted with disbelief, leaving Rafter to thump away a forehand winner off a poor Henman second serve to square the set.

Reports and results, pages 18 and 19

Guardian Crossword No 21,314

Set by Bunthorne

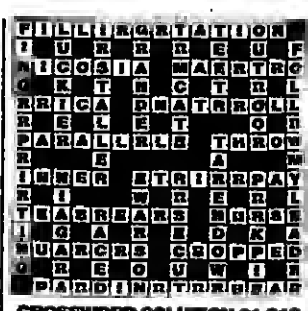


Across

- 1 See 24
- 5 24, 1ac, a 6 with a 12, with 18, 21, 28. Get him! (7)
- 9 France's private oil supply without back-up (5)
- 10 Illustrated by Philz, a door for single-cell occupants (9)
- 11 Revolutionary Eastern Jew invades Cheshire (10)
- 12 Six points for artistic interpretation (4)
- 14, 15, 21, 22a "ignore errant fathoms. Follow us!" (Here's poor Pope's conclusion) (5, 4, 2, 5, 6, 4, 2, 5)
- 22 Old world object worker holds very dear (10)
- 25 Skinny slice of meat, a "no-use" mince (5)
- 26 Of which the first sees 14 (5)
- 27 Cunning bouncer taking up little time with feet? (7)

Down

- 1 Firm kiss betrays one in the Russian's pocket (6)
- 2 Drove home through the woods (6)
- 3 Food additive extracted from fur slime: that's possible (10)
- 4 Badly hurt, many at a loose end (5)
- 5 Don't get fleas to, ie, jump (4, 2, 3)
- 6 Othello went up in space (4)
- 7 Uncle Arty's shoes were hot. Got it? (3, 5)
- 8 Car part that could be left behind (4, 4)
- 13 One follows various loveless characters in a boat (10)
- 15 Number 11 bus going around empty: nothing heading for base? (9)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,314

- 16 Such appearances can be deceptive (3-5)
- 17 Formal training against current consuming (8)
- 19 He wrote for lawyers and bible classes on English (8)
- 20 Standing firm from point to cover (6)
- 23 Having second thoughts about this exam? (5)
- 24, 1across "Single couple" (5 across) (4, 7)

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The glut of nipples and pudenda follows years of relative prudishness in TV drama. What's interesting about these projects is that they are not only written by women, but form part of a plethora of programming scheduled to attract female viewers fleeing the World Cup. Fleshing out the TV schedules

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